VOL. XXXIII.—No. 391. 20th JULY, 1918. SUBSCRIPTION: 10/- PER ANNUM POST FREE

THE AUSTRALASIAN Journal of Pharmacy

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The Australasian Chemist and Druggist.

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Index to Advts. Page 8.

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17—2

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INDEX TO ADVERTISEMENTS.

Allen and Hanburys, London—Wholesale Export Druggists, etc. ... Cover, 32
Amalgamated Insurance Limited ... 1
Anglo-French Drug Co. Ltd. 20
Atkin's Quinine Wine 24
Atkinson and Barker, Manchester ... 9
Bacchus Marsh Milk Co —Lactogen ... 17
Beecham's Pills 29
Benger's, F. B. & Co. Ltd., Manchester 12
Bidwell's Tooth Brushes, London ... 27
Biff Manufacturing Co., Sydney ... 22
Boston Co , Melbourne 27
Bosisto and Co., Richmond, Melbourne—Eucalyptus Oil 33
Brand & Co., London—Specialties ... 3
Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., London and Sydney ... ... Cover
Bush, W. J., and Co., London and Melbourne—Manufacturing Chemists, &c. 16
Clements Tonic, Sydney 5
Cocks, Arthur, & Co., Opticians, etc. ... 7
Condy and Mitchell, London—Condy's Fluid ... First Page of Reading Matter
Davenport, J. T., Ltd., London—Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne ... 11
Dearborn Limited, Sydney 1
Denver Chemical Mfg. Co., Sydney—Antiphlogistine 4
Denyer Brothers, Melbourne—Surgical Instrument and Truss Makers ... 21, 26
Duerdin & Sainsbury 25
Felton, Grimwade & Co., Melbourne ... 15
Forbes' Phosferrine 8
Greathead's Mixture, Melbourne ... 18
Hearne, W. G., Geelong—Bronchitis Cure 2
Henry, T. and W., Manchester ... 25
Holloway's Pills 24
Horlick's Malted Milk, England ... 25
Howards and Sons Ltd. 23
Ingrams, London 19
Kirby, H. and T., London 5
Koch, Albert, Melbourne—Analyst ... 34
Lambert Pharmacal Co.—"Listerine" ... 14
Lincoln, Stuart and Co. End of Reading Matter
Lloyd, Howard, and Co. Ltd., Leicester 22
Madero Bros. 11
Miller, A. P., and Son, Hobart—Nazetha 27
National Cash Register Co., Sydney ... 31
Neave's Food ... ...
Nicholas, Geo. R., Melb. 17
Parke, Davis and Co., Detroit, U.S.A., and Sydney—Manufacturing Chemists ... Cover
Pharmacy Board Notices 30
Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd. 22
Roberts' Filling Machine Co. 34
Rocke, Tompsitt and Co., Melbourne ... 6
Rosier, John, Melbourne—Chiropodist, etc. 28
Sigma Co. Ltd. 30
Selby and Co., H. B., Melbourne .. 22
Scott and Bowne Ltd.—Scott's Emulsion 7
Seabury and Johnson, London and Sydney Cover
Smith, T. & H., Edinburgh 21
Statham & Co., Manchester 24
Stearns & Co., Frederick, Sydney ... 16
St. Dalmas, A. De, Leicester—Plasters 24
S.P. Charges Co., England—Sulphaqua and Sulphaqua Soap ... ...
Taylor and Colledge, Brisbane .. 21
Thomas, F., Coaching College ... 27
Vapo-Cresolene, New York—Vapo-Cresolene 10
Whitehead & Co., Melbourne—Chemists' Labels 28
W. Wilson, Sydney—Valeria Face Powder 9
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure .. 34
Wood, W., & Co., Melbourne—Opticians 10
Wyleys Ltd., Coventry—Wholesale and Export Druggists... 13
Zeal, G. H. 26

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THE AUSTRALASIAN

Journal of Pharmacy

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Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne, for transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

No. 391.] JULY 20TH, 1918. [VOL. XXXIII.

Articles.

The World's Supply of Opium.

By Sidney Plowman, F.R.C.S., Eng., Lecturer in Chemistry and Botany in the Melbourne College of Pharmacy.

The following interesting and important communication formed part of a letter received from Staff-Sgt. Johnson, recently a student of the Melbourne College of Pharmacy, and now stationed at Cawnpore, India. It is peculiarly gratifying to find a student of the College when abroad noting matters of interest in connection with pharmacy and communicating the results of his observations to his Alma Mater:—

It may be of interest to you to know that Staff-Sgt. Davies, of Western Australia, and myself had the pleasure of visiting the Agricultural College, Cawnpore, at the invitation of H. E. Annett, B.Sc., F.I.C. It is at this college that such important research has been made regarding opium, and with such success.

Although before the war India had a huge output of opium, well nigh all medicinal opium came from Turkey, because it was supposed that the Turkish product was much superior, and that the Indian could not come up to the required standard.

The two markets for Indian opium were:—1st, the important export to China of opium having 85 per cent. solids; 2nd, the excise trade, requiring opium having 60 per cent. solids. The latter constituted the opium sold in all Indian

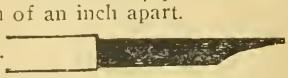
bazaars, and was supplied by the Government in 2 lb. flat cakes. You will note that there is no mention of percentage of morphine or alkaloids in either of these trade supplies.

The method of exporting opium to China is interesting. It is supplied in hermetically-sealed spherical vessels, which are made of poppy petals. It was found that the petals, when compressed, gave forth an exudation which, when dry, acted like a cement. Now the fresh petals are put into semi-spherical vessels, and compressed against the sides, and the exudation, when dry, binds the petals together, and so we get half the opium container, which is then taken out of the vessel. The opium is placed in one-half, and covered over with another half, and the join sealed up. Then it is ready for export.

When war broke out, export from Turkey ceased, and so the Indian Government decided to investigate whether it would be possible to produce medicinal opium in India, up to the required standard, and of sufficient quantity for export.

H. E. Annett, B.Sc., F.I.C., was sent to conduct the investigation, and was ably assisted by a botanist, G. K. Lele, L.Ag., who selected and isolated various special plants and species to begin with. After comparing the Indian plants and methods with other opium-growing countries, they found that the Indian methods and plants compared favourably, but the mode of scratching and collection differed somewhat.

You are familiar with the one transverse spiral cut of the Turks, but the Indian method is this:— One longitudinal scratch from top to bottom or vice-versâ, made with care, so as not to penetrate to the interior of the capsule. The first scratch is made about ten days after the petals have fallen, then one scratch every 3 or 4 days, and up to as many as 7 or 8 scratches. The knife used consists of 4 pointed blades, side by side, 1-20th of an inch apart.



Scratching is done about 2 p.m., and the collection of dried latex made about 6 a.m. next morning. The collection is made with brass trays, scraped along the scratch of capsule.

This important fact was noticed—the collection of the first scratching yielded opium containing up to 17 per cent. and 18 per cent., the second scratching morphine percentage up to 12. After the fifth scratching, sometimes little or no morphine in the opium; but, on the other hand, although the percentage of narcotine dwindled in proportion with the morphine, the percentage of codeine remained constant throughout. Latter most important.

It is now decided that opium for medicinal purposes is contained in the first and second scratchings, and so now the Government has issued instructions to growers to send their opium in two parcels, and not as they formerly did, mix all scratchings together. One parcel contains opium from the first two scratchings, and the other parcel contains opium from the other scratchings, and will constitute the opium supplied to the excise trade. There are many other important features, which were found during the investigation, but it is not in my power to write about them, because a book is being published, and will be out this year.

Many methods were employed to produce a greater percentage of morphine in opium, such as isolating special species, growing in special soils and various manures and in various parts of India, to see whether climate conditions affected the output.

Owing to the fact that more capsules are produced in some plants than others, a tally of all capsules scratched was kept, and the various methods of scratching adopted in other countries was tried, but the Indian method was found most satisfactory. It was found that although the methods adopted increased the output of opium, the percentage of alkaloids remained the same.

B.P. method of extracting alkaloids was followed, but in the case of codeine a better method of extraction was found; better because a bigger percentage of codeine can be recovered, and in a much shorter period than that required for B.P. analysis. One man can do as many as 6 or 7 estimates in one day.

It was also found that the power of the plant to produce a high alkaloidal percentage was due greatly to heredity of species.

The result of this investigation is that now India can supply medicinal opium, and still have besides a plentiful supply for other purposes in trade.

The tradition has existed in the past, and still survives, that Turkey opium is the best of all opium. The name Turkey opium might include a number of varieties of opium, which, in the past, have found their way into trade, such as Constantinople opium, Trebizond, really Persian, opium, Egyptian opium (before the dual control of Egypt), and Smyrna opium. Of these, the last has always been considered the best. It, like all crude drugs met with in trade which are not standardised, is variable as to percentage of active principles, but there is no doubt but that selected Smyrna opium is of good quality, and generally meets the Pharmacopoeia requirements. Indian opium has always been in poor repute. This is due to the fact that "Chinese investment opium," as the opium exported in the past from India to China was named, was stated to have contained as little as 2½ to 3 per cent. of morphine. Flückiger and Hanbury state that the mean of four analyses of Benares opium made in 1852 by Eatwell gave 2.56 per cent. morphine. Pereira expressed the opinion that the percentage of 2½ to 3 per cent. was considerably below the truth, and many years ago Morson stated that Benares opium contained "rather more than half the quantity of good average Turkey

opium." This opium has always been made up in the manner described by Staff-Segt. Johnson, and the globular masses are about the size of a sixteen pound round shot. It was largely exported to China, and from the natural coverings was called Chinese *investment* opium. The opium, when placed within the coverings, had the consistence of a soft extract, and was very liable to turn mouldy. The Pharmacographia states that "should any (of the globular cakes) become distended, it is at once opened, the gas allowed to escape, and the cake made up again." The Museum of the Melbourne College at one time possessed capsules showing scarifications made by the Indian method from which the opium had been scraped. Unfortunately, these are now destroyed and lost.

En passant, it may be stated that this stuff was the cause of a war known as "the opium war," in 1840, between Great Britain and China. It is a war upon which no decent Briton can look back now without a feeling of shame, for the Mandarins at that time were enlightened enough to desire to stop the foreign importation of opium into China by every means in their power. They induced the then British Superintendent of Trade in China to agree that all the opium in the hands of Englishmen should be given up to the native authorities, and he exacted a pledge from the merchants that they would no longer deal in the drug. More than 20,000 chests of opium were given up to the Mandarins, and were by them destroyed. It is astounding to read that the British Government considered this action to amount to a *casus belli*. The outcome of the war was that Hong-Kong was ceded to the victorious British, 6,000,000 dollars indemnity was paid by the Chinese, and the opium traffic was restored. The writer is old enough to remember as a lad the opium war being discussed by his elders, it then having occurred sufficiently recently that the memory of it had not at that time faded from the minds of men.

A good Indian opium is Patna Garden opium. It is prepared exclusively for medicinal use, and especially for the military and other hospitals, and yielded on analysis by Flückiger and Hanbury 8.6 per cent. of morphine. It is made up into tile-like masses, about 3 inches square, and ¾ to 1 inch thick. It is enclosed in thin plates of mica.

Opium has been produced in many countries. England, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, and Australia have all produced it. The Museum of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain had at the time the writer left England specimens of most of those produced in various countries, excepting Australian, which was hardly known at that time. In England the season must be a favourable one, but given this it has been shown that in all these countries opium can be produced not inferior to Smyrna opium.

The history of Australian, or, as it is better known by the name of colonial opium, is interesting. Mr. Fripp has kindly afforded me information as to this. It was first produced in the early eighties of last century, near Bacchus Marsh, and afterwards at Glen Maggie and other places in Gippsland. It was reliable and good, and contained generally about 13 per cent. of morphine. There was in Victoria a protective duty of 20s. per pound, with no excise, so that it could be produced and sold at a little lower figure than the price of the imported drug plus the duty, and bring in a very handsome profit to the producer. The result was that later, about the late nineties, the market became glutted, and much more was produced than the wholesale houses could take. Export to Great Britain was not promising, as there was no duty on opium in that country. Nevertheless, Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt and Co. did send a good parcel to Great Britain, but the price obtained was not sufficient to induce the growers to continue to produce, and opium cultivation fell into abeyance. Small parcels occasionally have since found their way to the wholesale houses, but the supply has been very small and irregular. The Federal duty is now 30s. per lb., and it would again pay very handsomely indeed to produce opium in Australia; but there is always the risk of a glut. The law would now also impose a number of regulations and conditions for its cultivation and storage, and some might think there would be an element of risk of dissemination of the indulgence in the opium habit. The manufacture of the alkaloids of opium and their salts is not attended with very great diffi-

culty, and it would appear that opium, in spite of any glut of the crude drug, might be profitably produced for the manufacture of morphine, etc., for home consumption and for export. All soils, however, will not produce equally good opium, and a good deal of experimental work would have to be done to obtain the best possible results. Unless opium be produced within the Commonwealth, the imposition of a duty of 30s. per lb. on opium seems entirely undesirable. The law requires that none shall be now used, save for medicinal purposes, and the duty at the present time causes the price of an indispensable drug to be unduly high without in any sense affording protection.

The war is very far reaching in its effects. One of these effects is to close the source of Turkey opium, and it would seem that in the matter of opium there is now a great opportunity for the Indian Government. Staff-Sergeant Johnson, in his communication, has shown that India can produce opium of the highest quality. If the Indian Government assumed entire control of the opium production and trade, and allowed none to be exported excepting such as bears its own guarantee as to alkaloidal content, India, with its abundant cheap labour and its vast area of suitable opium-producing land, might command the world's market, and the tradition that an enemy-produced drug is the best, would be destroyed for ever. In speaking of the world's market, Australia should be excepted. For it has been abundantly proved that opium of the very finest quality can be produced in Victoria, and elsewhere in Australia, and in this respect, Australia should be self-containing.

Eye Injury Caused by Golf Ball.

Dr. J. C. Halliday, assistant ophthalmic surgeon, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, mentions the case of a boy aged 10 years who while sawing through a golf ball sustained an injury to his eye owing to some white fluid from the interior flying up and striking him. A similar case is mentioned in the *British Medical Journal* (20/4/1915). The literature of the accident, which appears to be common in America, is referred to, and analyses of the fluid contents of various golf balls is given. Some were found to contain barium sulphate, soap and free alkali, others sulphuric acid, and others again chloride of zinc and soap. The danger attending the opening of these golf balls should be realised by the public and by golf players particularly.

Abstracts.

The Value of Quick Turnover.

By Frank Farrington.

In the "American Druggist."

The oftener you sell out your stock, and buy new, the oftener you make a profit. It would seem to be perfectly logical that the oftener you make a profit, the less profit you need to make each time. In other words, to make 100dol. profit twelve times a year is better than to make 200dol. profit five times a year.

Isn't it better to make twelve sales with a profit of twenty cents each than to make four sales with a profit of fifty cents each?

Or course, it costs more, it takes more work, more help, to handle the twelve sales, and it may be that the difference in expense would eat up the forty cents balance in favour of the twelve sales. But if that is the case, the proposition should simply be amended to read twenty-five cents instead of twenty cents.

Aside from being more profitable to make the larger number of sales at the smaller profit, isn't it easier to do it? Won't people buy at the lower price with less urging, with less advertising and less salesmanship? Won't more people come to buy? Won't the store attract more trade, and get more word of mouth advertising from its customers?

Even if the figures given are exaggerated, the same principles will hold good with smaller margins. It will be easier to sell the same goods at twenty-two cents than at twenty-five cents.

Turnover is influenced too by another thing than price. It is influenced by the popularity of the goods. Goods of known brand and known value will sell faster than similar goods of an unknown kind. Therefore it will obviously pay better to sell the well known goods even though the profit on them is appreciably smaller. Everything figures out in favour of doing business faster, of turning over the stock oftener.

To find the annual turnover, divide the cost of the goods sold during the year by the average inventory, the average amount of stock carried. A good many merchants have the idea that the gross sales of the year are to be divided by the inventory. This is wrong, because in that way you are mixing two sets of figures, the sales taken from retail figures, and the inventory taken from wholesale or cost figures.

To get the cost of the goods sold during a given period, take the total purchases and add any decrease in the inventory, or subtract any increase. A decrease in the inventory, of course, means that goods were sold that were not replaced. An increase means that goods were bought that were not sold. The fixtures and the equipment of the store ought not to be included when estimating turnover. Those things are not sold. No profit comes from them, in fact they depreciate steadily.

No definite statement can be made as to how many times any merchant ought to turn his stock in a year, but a stock that turns two or three times a year does not turn often enough, and I know grocers, not chain stores, who turn their

stock twenty-five times a year. Mr. Liggett said at the New York College of Pharmacy that a drug stock should be turned at least four times a year.

In every store there are certain goods that are not turning over more than once a year, and a few seem never to turn at all. If there is any appreciable stock of such things, you should realise that such stock is keeping down your rate of turnover. The slow ones are holding back the whole procession. Get rid of them. They are making it that much harder for you to meet competition.

Slow selling stock increases unduly the interest on the investment, the insurance you must carry, the depreciation you must suffer, the dead stock loss. It adds to the expenses, and only once in a great while declares any dividend.

If you are going to meet such competition as that offered by the mail order houses, you need to be prepared to sell many items at close prices. No amount of talk about the necessity for people trading at home, or about the disadvantage of sending your dollar where you may never see it again, will not count for as much as prices that meet mail order prices or that beat them. Money talks.

The faster you turn your stock, the closer you can sell, and make the same or larger profits.

The merchant who is doing business in the old way, with a turnover of perhaps twice a year, is the man who is going to be hit hardest by the mail order and the chain store competition, as well as by growing efficiency in independent stores. He does not see how he can compete with their prices. He cannot compete with them on his old-fashioned basis of doing business. He reasons that a certain generous percentage of profit is necessary for him. He has not given consideration to the fact that a small profit oftener will amount to as much as or to more than a big profit at longer intervals.

There was a time when a merchant might succeed on the plan of handling a few long profit lines, and making an occasional sale to someone who was willing to pay the price. People are watching the market more closely nowadays. They are paying careful attention to economy in buying and the sources of supply at what we call "cut prices" are so numerous that the consumer is constantly reminded of offers that are below those of his old-fashioned, one-to-two-turnover merchant.

When we are in competition with lower prices, the very best way to keep that competition, no matter where or what it is, from getting our customers away from us, is to eliminate the price advantage.

Keeping the stock down is the key to frequent turnover, and it helps further by releasing more capital for use in branching out and improving the store equipment and facilities. Many a merchant has been deterred from stocking a line he believed would sell well, and rapidly, just by lack of money, when a proper reduction of stock in some lines he considers staple, would give him the money to use for expansion.

Variety of stock is going to help your sales, and help you to hold your own against outside competition. It will bring more people to your store, and it will bring them oftener. It adds to the number of goods you may sell at a good profit.

Add to your stock any line that will sell rapidly, increasing sales without slowing down turnover too much. Favour such lines as can be bought in small quantities at near-by points, lines that do not tie up much money.

To keep the stock in any store up to date and full of interest, there should be new goods added frequently. It is better to add many of these lines in sufficient quantity for one good, hard push, and then replace them with something else, than to try to carry indefinitely and into a slow selling future a permanent stock of them. Many merchants make the mistake of treating lines of novelties as if they were to be permanent additions to the stock. Unfortunately, some do become permanent additions.

It is keeping the problem of quick turnover constantly before the mind that makes it possible to achieve success in that direction.

Your customers never open a mail order catalogue that they do not find in it something new. You can see to it that they always find something new in your store. It is quick turnover that makes possible the addition of something new every day, and it is adding a little of something new every day that helps speed up the turnover.

If your methods have been conservative, change them and work for quicker turnover and greater variety of stock of fast selling items. Take novelties for what they are, temporary items not staple stuff. Push them hard while the demand is good, and give them up just a little before the demand stops. Let some other store taper off with the last sales, and the left over odds and ends.

Speeding up the turnover is the best way of meeting adverse merchandising conditions, and these certainly are times when such conditions prevail.

The Practice of Pharmacy in India.

India's practice of to-day's pharmacy, according to a paper read before the Minnesota Pharmaceutical Association by Mr. V. R. Kokatnur, a brief report of which is published in the *Pacific Drug Review* for May, 1918, has for its foundation the science of Hindu medicine, which the Hindus developed since they emigrated into India at the time of the general Aryan immigration. When one of the branches of the Aryan race entered India, the people began to feel the necessity of developing a medical science suited to the newer conditions of the country which they adopted. Their first and primitive conceptions of the science are recorded in their oldest documents, "the Vedas," the chronology of which is somewhere between 3000 and 10,000 B.C. From this time onward, India developed her medical science unaided by the rest of the world, until the tenth century, when her progress stopped, so to say, owing to her subjection and unsettled conditions. Several works on medicine still exist to-day in Sanskrit. The best known among them are works written by Drs. Charaka and Sushruta, of the eighth or

ninth century B.C. In these two works anatomy, surgery, diagnosis, pharmacy, toxicology, and medical chemistry, are treated. Dr. Hoernle, in the Harvard Oriental series, says: "Probably it will come as a surprise to many, as it did to myself, to discover the amount of anatomical knowledge which is disclosed in the works of the early medical writers of India. Its extent and accuracy are surprising, when we allow for their early age and their peculiar methods of definition. The Hindu practice of pharmacy to-day is essentially the same as that of old. It follows the early medical writers in their preparations and uses. Excepting some minerals and organic drugs, the Hindus use drugs in a more or less natural form. They have no elaborate methods of extracting or purifying or isolating certain active principles. In the modern sense, their methods are very crude, although in many instances the modern processes were anticipated. Apart from its crudity, Hindu pharmacy is built on the solid foundation of experience of 3000 years at least. English physicians have declared that about 70 per cent. of our modern drugs to-day are those that were or are used in the Hindu pharmacopoeia. In spite of the crudeness of manufacture, the Hindu drugs are based on experience. There are remedies for even some of the so-called incurable diseases of to-day. To bring such drugs to the light of the world, would perhaps save thousands of lives. It does not behove us of the twentieth century to discard a drug because it is not discovered in a modern laboratory. Quinine was used years ago by the natives of South America for curing fever, although they had no medical science of their own. To these uncivilised natives, we owe the discovery of quinine and the saving of millions of lives as a result.

Supplying Narcotics to Dentists.

Mr. R. Ernest Fraser, in a letter to "The Australian Journal of Dentisty," of June 29, 1918, writes:—"An incorrect inference may possibly be drawn from the unhappy incident related by Mr. G. M. Allen in the last number of your journal. From the different treatment meted out to our confrere at the two pharmacies it may appear that it is a vague point of understanding whether dentists are privileged to purchase cocaine and that they are dependent for supplies on the personal hazard of the pharmacies to whom application is made. This is quite rightly the position. By virtue of Regulation 17 of the Poisons Act 1915, dentists are definitely empowered to purchase this drug. Moreover, in the synoptic form of the regulations, issued by the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, it is stated that "Certain hypnotic and narcotic drugs (including cocaine) must not be sold except on the written order of a doctor or dentist." In view of possible conflict with uninformed pharmacists, I would suggest that this portion of the Act be borne in memory. It might also be not unprofitable to publish Mr. Allen's experience in the pharmacy journals." (A summary of Mr. Allen's complaint was published in the "Australasian Journal of Pharmacy," June 20, 1918, page 262.—Ed. A.J.P.)

Science and Industry.

The Castor Oil Industry.
The Plant Grows Freely in Australia.

(From Report published by the Commonwealth Advisory Council of Science and Industry.)

Round Sydney, in the neighbourhood of Perth and in Queensland, the Castor-oil plant is well known. It grows almost like a weed. Thoughtful men have long wondered whether it could not be turned to commercial advantage; and now that the price of Castor Oil is up in the skies, more attention is being given to the subject.

Investigations have been set afoot by the Advisory Council of Science and Industry. The greatest difficulty seems to be that of supplying labour. In this case, a peculiar difficulty presents itself. The capsules containing the castor seed do not all ripen simultaneously, and when they do ripen they burst with a loud report, and scatter the seed to the four winds. This difficulty, however, must have been overcome in other countries.

The Castor plant is cultivated as a crop in India, Java, Brazil, and the United States, and is grown as an ornamental garden shrub in most of the warmer countries of the world. In the tropics it forms a small tree, from 20 to 30 feet or more in height. In warm temperate climates it is a shrub 8 to 12 feet high, whilst in localities where frost occurs, it is a herbaceous perennial. In India the leaves are used as fodder for cattle, and in Assam they are used for feeding the Eri silkworm. The chief product of the plant is, however, the seed or Castor-bean, from which oil is extracted. The beans produced by different varieties vary in size, colour, and shape, as well as in oil content. For practical purposes, the varieties may be grouped as large and small-seeded forms. The former are more prolific in yield, and the oil obtained from them is used chiefly for lubricating and industrial purposes; the small-seeded varieties yield the better quality oil, used in medicine.

Since the Castor-plant is sensitive to frost, it requires a warm climate, or a temperate climate, with a long summer. In general, it will succeed in any locality where maize will ripen. Moisture is essential for the germination of the seed, but when once the plant is established, it requires little rain, and excessive rainfall is injurious to it. The most suitable soils are rich, well-drained sandy or clayey loams, or in general soils which will produce good wheat or maize crops. Very loose sand and heavy clays are alike unsuitable. Deep ploughing and harrowing are essential. The plant is exhausting to the soil, and except in virgin land requires manuring. For this purpose, the residual cake left after expressing the oil is valuable, and the leaves and seed-husks of the plants are also useful if ploughed in. Pure crops should not be taken from the same land more than once in 5 or 6 years. In India it is not often grown as a pure crop, but is usually grown as a hedge round cotton or sugar

fields. The plants are not liable to the attacks of fungi or insects to any great extent.

The capsules of the small-seeded varieties begin to ripen in 4 or 5 months; those of the large-seeded varieties in 7 to 10 months after sowing. Since when ripe the capsules of many varieties burst suddenly and scatter the seed to a considerable distance, it is necessary to gather the spikes bearing the capsules as soon as they show signs of ripening. When ripening has commenced, the crop requires looking over once a week in order that ripening capsules may be gathered. An attempt has been made in the United States to produce a variety which ripens all its capsules at once, but apparently this has not been accomplished.

The capsules when gathered are spread out on a floor, preferably in an open shed, where they are exposed to the sun and protected from the rain. They need to be turned over from time to time. When all the capsules have shed their seed, the husks are removed, and the seeds swept up and collected. Capsules are also gathered from wild plants, and the seed obtained in the same manner. India is the principal producing country, exporting annually about 1,500,000 cwt. of beans. In addition, about 1,500,000 gallons of oil are exported annually from seed crushed in India. Before the war, about 4,000,000 gallons of this oil were exported to Australia.

Castor beans are crushed by crude native machinery in India, as well as by more modern machinery. Beans imported to Europe are crushed chiefly at Hull and Marseilles by methods similar to those adopted for other oil-seeds. The only firm in Australia which manufactures the oil from imported seed is Lycett Proprietary Ltd., Melbourne. For the finer grades of oil selected seed is taken, the husk removed, and the soft kernels expressed in the cold. The colourless oil thus obtained is free from the poisonous principle, ricin, which is present in the seeds. The remaining cake is pressed again, yielding inferior oil. Inferior seed is hot-pressed directly, or else the oil is extracted by solvents. The solvents used are carbon bisulphide or alcohol. The oil is subsequently refined by steaming. The beans contain 46 to 52 per cent. of oil, about 40 per cent. being obtained by expression. The residual cake is not available for stock feeding, since it contains the poisonous ricin. It is, however, as already mentioned, a useful manure.

Discoveries in Connection with Grass-Tree Resin.

Commonwealth Advisory Council of Science and Industry.

Among the numerous Australian raw materials for which satisfactory uses have not yet been found the resins (commonly called gums) produced by the grass-trees, Xanthorrhoea, are among the most promising.

Grass-trees are some of the commonest undershrubs in many parts of the Commonwealth, and the large amount of resin that they yield has attracted attention from the earliest days of the settlement of Australia. For a time the resin of the New South Wales species, X.hastilis, was the leading raw material for the manufacture of picric acid, and considerable quantities of it were exported under the name of yellow gum acaroid. The red resins yielded by other species also found a market for this purpose, under the names of yacca gum or blackboy gum. The development of the coal-tar industry and the utilisation of phenol derived from coal-tar for the manufacture of picric acid has, however, led to a cessation of the demand for grass-tree resins for this purpose, though a certain amount still continued to be exported for the manufacture of substitutes for shellac and low-grade varnishes. For the latter purposes these resins are also used in Australia.

A considerable number of investigations on grass-tree resins have been made in Australia and elsewhere, from time to time, and some of their chemical properties thereby elucidated, but it appeared to the Commonwealth Advisory Council of Science and Industry that a thorough chemical investigation of these resins, with the object especially of determining their exact chemical composition, was very desirable, and that until their composition was known, suggestions for their possible utilisation must be empirical. Accordingly, the Council appointed a Special Committee, consisting of Professor Rennie and Messrs. Cooke, Finlayson, and Hurst, of the chemical department of the University of Adelaide, to investigate the problem.

The Executive Committee of the Advisory Council has now received a progress report from the Special Committee, which indicates that substantial progress has been made, though owing to the continual pressure of teaching and other routine University work, not so much has been accomplished as the investigators would have desired. Attention has been chiefly directed, so far, to the products obtainable by steam distillation of a strongly alkaline solution of the resin. The material examined has been from three sources:—

1. Red resin, from Xanthorrhoea Tateana, Kangaroo Island.
2. Yellow (Species?), from the same region.
3. The resin of X. Preissii, W. Australia.

1. The red resin of X. Tateana gives on steam distillation from a strongly alkaline solution a distillate, which, on extraction with benzene and evaporation of the latter, produces an oil. This oil soon solidifies to a crystalline substance not hitherto, so far as can be ascertained, known as a product of the Grass Tree. It has been identified as paconol, $C_9H_{10}O_3$; obtainable from the root bark of Paconia Moutan, of Japan, and used medicinally in that country. From the residual liquor after the distillation can be extracted, after acidification, paracoumaric acid and parahydroxybenzaldehyde, both of which have been obtained from Grass Tree resin by other observers.

2. The Yellow resin, from Kangaroo Island, is stated by Mr. Harrison, a local resident, to be obtainable only from about one per cent. of the grass trees. The same gentleman states that

he has never seen a tree yielding the yellow resin in flower. Specimens of leaves, bark, etc., have been submitted to Professor Osborne, who is unable to say from their examination whether they belong to a distinct species or not, but from the results of the chemical examination, there is some evidence pointing in the direction of specific distinction. The resin differs physically in other respects than that of colour from the red variety, and on exactly similar treatment yields not only paconol, but in larger quantity, another crystalline substance of formula $C_9H_{10}O_4$. This has not yet been critically examined, as it is thought to be desirable to collect a sufficient quantity for exhaustive investigation. There is apparently also present a very small quantity of a substance smelling like coumarine.

3. The resin of X. Preissii distilled under the same conditions as the other yields an oil, which has so far not crystallised, which is yellow, slightly fluorescent, and has a different smell from that obtained from the other resins. This is being gradually collected for examination.

To illustrate the tediousness of the process, it may be mentioned that the distillation of two kilogrammes (in one lot) had to be continued for at least three weeks, 200 litres of distillate altogether being collected and extracted with benzene.

Formulary.

"National Druggist" Formulae.

Peroxide Mouth Wash.

Thymol	0.5 gram
Menthol	0.5 gram
Saccharin	0.5 gram
Alcohol	70 mils
Hydrogen dioxide solution	120 mils

In using dilute with an equal volume of water.

Antiseptic Foot Powder.

Eucalyptol	40 minims
Salicylic acid	4 drachms
Zinc stearate	3 drachms
Boric acid	5 ounces
Talcum	6 ounces

Mix intimately and use as a dusting powder.

Army Foot Powder.

Salicylic acid	1 drachm
Boric acid	4 drachms
Menthol	30 grains
Eucalyptol	20 minims
French chalk	4 ounces

This gives an agreeable and emollient preparation for keeping the feet cool and sweet in the warmest weather.

Anodyne Collodion.

Aconitine	1½ grains
Veratrine	9 grains
Flexible collodion, to make	3 ounces

This is recommended as an application in neuralgia and muscular rheumatism. It must not be applied to abraded surfaces.

Dandruff Remover.

Lactic acid	2 drachms
Compound tincture of cinchona	1 ounce
Rose water, to make	3 ounces

Mix and allow to stand twenty-four hours. Then filter. The apparent simplicity of this formula need not deter anyone from recommending its use. Lactic acid removes dandruff in a most surprising manner.

Chlorodyne Lozenges.

Icing sugar	1 pound
Powdered tragacanth	3 drachms

Mix, and add the following ingredients previously well mixed together, and knead into a homogeneous mass:—

Chloroform	90 minims
Oil of peppermint	20 minims
Tincture of capsicum	30 minims
Mucilage of acacia	3 ounces

Divide into 20 grain lozenges.

Eczema Ointment.

Zinc oxide	1 drachm
Calamine	1 drachm
Menthol	5 grains
Glycerin	30 grains
Wool fat, anhydrous	2 drachms
Benzoinated lard	2 drachms
Lime water	2 drachms

This is rubbed up on the ointment slab, omitting the lime water, until all the other ingredients are well mixed, when it is added gradually.

Menthol Tooth Powder.

A powder containing menthol, which leaves a refreshing taste in the mouth after use, can be made as follows:—

Menthol	1 part
Salol	8 parts
Soap, finely grated	20 parts
Calcium carbonate	20 parts
Magnesium carbonate	60 parts
Oil of peppermint	2 parts

Powder the solids finely, and mix thoroughly with the oil. From 10 to 20 parts of finely-powdered pumice stone may be added.

Compound Resorcinol Ointment, Without Glycerin.

Resorcinol	250 grains
Bismuth subnitrate	250 grains
Zinc oxide	250 grains
Rectified oil of birch tar	140 grains
Eucalyptol	30 grains
Hot distilled water	5 drachms
Anhydrous woolfat	3 ounces
White petrolatum, to make	8 ounces

Dissolve the resorcinol in the hot water and triturate the zinc oxide and the bismuth subnitrate in a mortar with the solution. Incorporate with the anhydrous woolfat and finally add the other ingredients, rubbing to a perfectly smooth paste.

Hypnotic and Narcotic Drugs.

CONFERENCE WITH B.M.A.

MEDICAL MEN AND PHARMACISTS DISCUSS THE MORPHIA AND COCAINE EVIL, OWNERSHIP OF PRESCRIPTIONS, AND THE SALE OF POTENT AND DANGEROUS DRUGS BY UNQUALIFIED PERSONS.

A conference between representatives of the Victorian Branch of the British Medical Association and the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, on Tuesday, June 25, at 8.30 p.m.

Present. — Professor R. J. A. Berry, Colonel W. Ernest Jones, Dr. Dunbar Hooper, Dr. L. J. Balfour, Dr. F. J. Davies, Major D. A. Cossar, Mr. C. E. Towl, Mr. A. R. Bailey, Mr. F. Buckhurst, and Mr. C. L. Butchers.

Professor Berry, who was voted to the chair, asked Colonel Ernest Jones, Inspector-General of the Lunacy Department, to explain the

Objects of the Conference.

Colonel Jones said that the question of imposing further restrictions on the sale of hypnotic and narcotic drugs had been brought home to him in connection with his duties as Inspector of Inebriate Institutions. He considered that these drugs were obtainable far too easily. At present, anyone who had a prescription could take it from place to place and get it repeated. In his opinion, the morphia habit was increasing. With so many returned soldiers coming back, many of whom had had morphia administered for the first time, there was a great danger of the habit becoming established, unless adequate restrictions were imposed. How to deal with the problem was the question they had to discuss. One suggestion was that medical men should be asked to write in their prescriptions "Not to be repeated." Another suggestion was that the pharmacist should retain all prescriptions for narcotic and hypnotic drugs, and file them. The latter proposal opened the vexed question as to who was the owner of a prescription, which had been paid for by the patient. He thought that the conference, after discussing the matter, might be able to arrive at some agreement whereby this rather difficult problem might be solved.

B.M.A. Asked to Take First Step.

Mr. Towl said that, speaking as a practising pharmacist, doing a large dispensing business, he could not say that he had noticed any tendency in the direction of an increase in either the morphia or cocaine habit. Occasionally he came into contact with persons who wanted these drugs, but he always firmly refused to supply them, except on a doctor's order, and he believed that this practice was general, so far as the great body of pharmacists was concerned. It was quite possible that the incidence of the war might bring about an increase in the drug habit. But was not the remedy in the doctor's own hands? If they marked their prescriptions "Not to be repeated," pharmacists would be obliged to dispense them once only. It would place travellers from other parts of the world and the other States in an awkward position if the pharmacist were to impound their prescriptions. He doubted, moreover, if the public would tolerate such a proposal if an attempt were made to enforce it. The practice throughout the British Empire was that the prescription was the property of the patient. Personally, he did not endorse this view. In his opinion, the patient paid for the doctor's advice, and the prescription was merely the doctor's message to the pharmacist. The public thought otherwise, and contended that it was the piece of paper on which the prescription was written that belonged to them.

Is the Habit Increasing?

Mr. Towl asked Dr. Jones if, in a general way, he thought the morphia and cocaine habits were increasing?

Colonel Jones said his impression was that the habit was increasing. There were rather more cases being treated at Lara and Brightside than formerly.

Mr. Bailey: Your annual report does not show that.

Colonel Jones: I think there are a few more cases.

Mr. Towl: You would, of course, come into contact with these cases directly, but in a general way I do not think the habit has grown.

Mr. Buckhurst said that, in his opinion, the regulations restricting the sale of narcotics had proved effective. Pharmacists had loyally observed the spirit of the regulations. The tabloid habit had been responsible for many of the morphia cases. If doctors would order solutions instead of tabloids, it would be a good thing. He was strongly of opinion that the present regulation was quite sufficient, and that pharmacists were honestly striving to curtail the evil.

Repetition of Narcotic Prescriptions.

Dr. Davies questioned whether a morphia or cocaine prescription, once it had been dispensed, could be repeated again without a fresh order. In any case, a prescription should bear the full name of the doctor writing it.

Mr. Butchers said that the experience of the Board was that very few pharmacists were not carrying out the regulations. The inspector was constantly on the watch for these cases.

Mr. Towl asked if something practical could not be done. Could the B.M.A., through its activities, prevail upon medical men to restrict the number of times a morphia or cocaine prescription could be dispensed?

Dr. Davies: At present a person having a prescription could go from place to place and get it repeated.

Mr. Bailey: That is so, but if a doctor marked the prescription, "Not to be repeated," that would prevent such a practice.

Major Cossar said that it would be impolitic to interfere with prescriptions which contained only an infinitesimal amount of morphia.

Dr. Davies suggested tightening up the present regulations by requiring pharmacists not to repeat prescriptions for morphia and cocaine.

Mr. Buckhurst said that it would be better first of all to try the effect of medical men writing directions regarding repetitions on the prescription.

Pharmacists Entitled to Some Recompense.

Mr. Butchers said that there must be a limit to the restrictions imposed upon pharmacists. Already considerable sacrifices had been made in connection with the narcotic regulations, and the Venereal Diseases Act. This was humanitarian legislation, no doubt, but pharmacists had to live, and they received no compensation for these sacrifices. He thought that the B.M.A. should help pharmacists to get some of the business they had lost back again. Quacks and charlatans were flourishing everywhere, and the Pharmacy Board was powerless to deal with them. The Government had been asked to amend the Act, but had not done so. Potent and dangerous drugs were being sold everywhere by unqualified persons without any discrimination. He asked the B.M.A. to stand behind pharmacists in this matter. It was not a fair thing to expect pharmacists to give everything away, and receive nothing in return. Medical men benefited by the legislation referred to, whilst pharmacists suffered. He laid on the table a copy of a Bill which had been drafted, and asked the B.M.A. representatives if they could help in inducing the Government to introduce legislation in the direction suggested.

Record of all Sales Suggested.

Major Cossar said that pharmacists could not be accused of laxity in respecting the present regulations. There were some black sheep, but they were to be found also in the medical fold. Some doctors would give narcotic prescriptions to any person who was willing to pay for them. These men were outside the pale of decent society, and were ostracised by their brother medical men, but they had to be reckoned with. In his opinion, medical men and pharmacists should agree to share the restrictions equally. It was the only safe method. Otherwise the irregular practitioner would flourish and the evil would continue. If they could induce the Government to pass an Act requiring every person—medical men, pharmacists, and wholesalers—to furnish a monthly return of all morphine and cocaine handled by them, it might be a good thing. This was the law in Canada. The machinery of the Pharmacy Board could be used for this purpose. Such a scheme would be better than penalising pharmacists alone, and it would lead to better results.

Mr. Bailey: Something on the lines of the present method of control exercised by the Customs Department?

Major Cossar: Yes. It is really a Federal problem, and if the evil is tackled, it must be on Federal lines.

Medical Appreciation of Pharmacists' Loyalty.

Dr. Balfour: Personally, I must express a very great debt of gratitude for the way in which pharmacists have carried out these regulations, especially in stopping the sale of veronal, sulphonal, and similar drugs to nurses and women patients without a proper order. Their loyal action has undoubtedly saved many people from being driven into Dr. Jones' hands. The way the regulations have been carried out, to my personal knowledge, has been a considerable factor in checking the evil. I think that if a recommendation went forth from this meeting asking medical practitioners to limit the repetition of narcotic prescriptions, the B.M.A., in all the States, would ask its members to see that such recommendation was faithfully and loyally carried out.

Mr. Towl expressed pleasure at Dr. Balfour's remarks. Medical men were the masters of the situation. He agreed that the conference should pass a resolution on the lines suggested.

Colonel Ernest Jones referred to a section in the Inebriates' Act, which gave certain powers which had not yet been exercised.

Dr. Dunbar Hooper: I think we should first of all ask our members to indicate the number of times they wish narcotic prescriptions to be repeated.

Mr. Bailey endorsed this opinion. If legislation were necessary, it should be dealt with under the Poisons Act. This Act was at present defective, and needed strengthening.

Mr. Butchers said that Dr. Robertson had informed him that in the Nurses' Bill to be introduced this session, provision would be made preventing nurses from supplying narcotics and hypnotics except under a doctor's order. It would be remembered that a joint deputation of the B.M.A. and pharmacists asked that a clause to this effect should be inserted.

First Resolution.

Mr. Towl moved, and Colonel Jones seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—

"That the Council of the British Medical Association in Victoria be asked to request its members, when writing prescriptions for narcotic drugs, to indicate in the prescription the number of times such prescription is to be dispensed."

It was also agreed that the pharmaceutical organisations should ask their members to plainly indicate on such prescriptions the date on which they were dispensed.

Further Conference to Consider Amending Legislation.

Professor Berry said that during the evening references had been made to the sacrifices pharmacists were making in carrying out recommendations such as they were discussing. It had been suggested that the B.M.A. might assist in securing better conditions for pharmacists in other directions. Personally, he was disposed to think that the B.M.A. should do something in this direction. It was an appalling and scandalous state of affairs which allowed dry goods stores to sell a number of potent and dangerous drugs without any restriction at all. He would like to see something done to remedy this, and suggested the advisability of a joint conference being held to discuss what amendments should be asked for. His opinion was that the time had arrived when the two organisations they represented should decide what amendments were necessary, and place their case before the Government by means of a joint deputation.

Mr. Towl said he agreed with Professor Berry that the Medical Act did not go far enough. The Pharmacy Board had made an attempt to deal with the matter, and had had a Bill drafted, but the Government so far had not taken it up. As far as he was concerned, he would welcome a conference to discuss what amendments should be recommended.

Dr. Dunbar Hooper moved, that a joint conference, representing the B.M.A. and the Pharmacy Board, be held to discuss the best means of securing amending legislation.

Mr. Buckhurst seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Ownership of Prescriptions.

Mr. Bailey said there were many points concerning the ownership of prescriptions, which might well be discussed at a future conference.

Dr. Balfour thought that the idea suggested by Mr. Bailey was a good one.

It was agreed to suggest to the Council of the B.M.A. the desirability of holding a joint conference later on to discuss this matter.

Vote of Thanks.

Mr. Buckhurst proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman. Both the medical and pharmaceutical bodies were now working along sympathetic lines, and conferences such as those that had been held recently would, he thought, tend to promote the welfare of both bodies, and bring about a better understanding between them. (Applause.)

Professor Berry, in response to the vote of thanks, said that it had been a genuine pleasure to him to preside over the conference. He would like to reciprocate what Mr. Buckhurst had said, that these informal conferences were productive of good results and tended to promote unity.

The meeting then adjourned.

Russian News.

Short History of Russian Pharmacy.

(Exclusive Correspondence of "Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.")

Just when Russian industry and professions generally, at all events as organised concerns, have been practically universally snuffed out, may not appear a suitable time for writing a history, excepting in the form of a valedictory notice. But all those professions and industries that are essential to civilised communities will doubtless reform when Russian society becomes reconstituted, and their previous annals will doubtless serve as so many introductions to the new life; so that perhaps the story told of Russian pharmacy from, as the author puts it, prehistoric times down to the present, that is till shortly before the dissolution of Russian society generally, will serve as interesting, for there can be no doubt that although the interruption has been violent and in many respects complete, there will be features in new pharmaceutical Russia that will be, properly speaking, continuations of the old.

Briefly, Russian pharmacy has been through the following experience. Down to the year 862, A.D., little or nothing at all was known of the pharmaceutical profession of the country. The use of plants for medicinal purposes is about all that stands on record. But after that time till the time of Ivan the Great, which is called the second period in the story, the first pharmacy was established, originating, it would appear, in a Byzantian education. This would, so to speak, mark the beginning of the struggle between the sorcerers and charlatans with skilled medicine, properly speaking. But even that period is practically without a record. The first written work on healing is found in the Svyatoslaff collection in 1073, subsequent to which the Russian princes or kings invited members of skilled technical people from Western Europe to assist them in developing their industries and professions; and amongst such guests were a fair number of pharmacists.

The third period, namely, from 1533 to 1701, was marked by a considerable acquisition of foreign pharmacists, but really the origin of the first pharmacy in the country is wrapped in mystery; it cannot be identified. One of the leading lights in the profession was Dr. Standish Arend Classen, who was attached apparently to the Russian Court for about sixty years. He died in 1621. He is reported to have done duty likewise as a soldier, and this statement serves to suggest that the military field pharmacies originated with him. Following on the period referred to, we find that in 1581 a number of pharmacists reached Moscow, including Frencham, who remained in the country till 1584. In 1602 he returned with 166 medicines. Subsequently the Dutch Minister was accompanied into Russia with a number of pharmacists. An interesting event in the history of the business took place in 1686, when Kurlyandza Georg Gossenius, before he was accepted as pharmacist, was subjected to an examination by a committee, including pharmacists and others, after which he was

formally accepted as a pharmacist. His case is particularly noted as the first case of a pharmacist examination in Russia, and the establishment of the title of pharmacist. What is believed to be the oldest pharmacy in the country was established in the Kremlin in the sixteenth century exclusively for the Czar, his family and friends.

Pharmaceutical societies were controlled by what was called the Pharmaceutical Prikas, or ordnance, instituted about 1607. At the time of the Czar Alexéié Michailovitch, pharmaceutical gardens were opened in Moscow; that is, to cultivate medicinal plants. The story gives the positions in which these gardens were situated.. Besides, such plants were collected in various parts of the country, and books were written with sketches and descriptions to guide the collectors. They were composed in 1534 and translated into the Russian language presumably from the Polish. In 1672 a Court pharmacy was opened in Nishni-Novgorod for officials and the public at taxed prices. The department controlling pharmacy went under successive changes of names. For example, in 1672 the Pharmaceutical Prikas became the Pharmaceutical Chamber ("Palata"). At that time the Czar's pharmacies were fitted up most luxuriously, more so, indeed, than could be recognised to-day. They were located in the Courts, and the vases were of polished crystal ornamented with silver and gold. The pharmacies were fitted up by foreigners; but controlled by the Russian "tone," and always bore a special Russian "cachet." There were pharmaceutical businesses at the beginning of the seventeenth century in Archangel, Mohilieff, Polotsk, etc. With the eighteenth century we come into contact with the arbitrary will of Peter the Great, whose views were plainly enough impressed on the pharmaceutical system; so much so that it is said its foundations laid by Peter were so strong that even the pharmacies of our day rest on them, and thanks thereto they to some extent stood against the waves of destruction that have raged in Russia for a number of years.

In November, 1711, a ukase or order was issued for the constitution in Moscow of eight pharmacies, etc., issued by Peter the Great after his return from a foreign journey, during which he became acquainted with the pharmaceutical business in Stuttgart. The first to be called a pharmacists' assistant in Moscow was J. G. Gregorius, by public decree in 1672. The first eight pharmacies were opened in the course of twelve years, the last of them being in 1713, and Peter the Great founded at his own cost the Nizhni pharmacy in Petrograd, which was finished about 1706. A special pharmacy was establisehd in Lubnach in 1707 for Little Russia.

In 1706 Peter the Great established the first hospital in Russia, namely, the Moscow General Army Hospital, and a competent staff was duly appointed for the pharmacy attached thereto, accompanied by a medico-surgical school. Then followed, in 1717, the Admiralty Marine General Hospital, Petrograd, and so on. By the beginning of the eighteenth century pharmacists had already their guild, Imperially authorised, but it was closed down by the ukase of the Empress Anna Joannovny on 5th December, 1736. During this century of course the dates became frequent on which fresh pharmacies were opened in various parts of the country. In 1725 the Senate turned the Pharmaceutical Chamber into the Pharmaceutical Chancellory. In 1763 the name was again changed to the Medical College. It is observed that medicinal plant gardens had become better distributed over the country in this century. These were properly equipped with driers, heaters and laboratories, and were under the control of skilled pharmacists, with assistants and teachers. The control of pharmacy generally and of prices was handed over in 1721 to the College of Medicine. The first mention of the use of a pharmacopoeia, the "Lugdensis," is in 1751. The oldest Russian field pharmacopoeia, the "Castrensis," properly speaking, was issued by the Medical College in 1778, and the pharmacopoeia "Navalis Rossica" was published in 1783. In 1808 a pharmaceutical school was opened at the St. Petersburg Surgico-Medical Academy, founded in 1799, and later quite a number of statutes, regulations, tables, etc., were promulgated with regard to the working of the pharmaceutical business in the country. On 19th March, 1788, the privilege of erecting factories for producing sulphate of copper and aqua fortis was granted. Furnaces were built near Petrograd for the preparation of alum, potash, saltpetre, sal ammoniac and asbestos.

What may be called the final or fifth period, called the "new age of pharmacy in Russia," is introduced here. The statement is made that the wise measures of the preceeding period had acted beneficially on the business; and in the whole course of the nineteenth century in which Russian pharmacy may be said to have flourished this was evident.

The well prepared soil yielded rich fruits. Great merit is awarded to the Derpt University, where a pharmaceutical institute was established with rich laboratories and cabinets which turned out the best people in Russian pharmacy, who worked not only in pharmacies, chemical factories and in various laboratories, but in various Government establishments. Pharmaceutical journals began to be issued. Russian pharmaceutical congresses were convoked, the first of them on 27th February, 1864. The Medical College was changed into the Imperial Medical College, then into the Medical Government, Medical Department, and the Chief Government Sanitary Inspectorate. A Medical Council was established, and the publication of pharmaceutical statutes, which included the Government pharmaceutical section, rules for opening pharmacies, and so on, took place.

All Great Russia was covered with a network of pharmacies. The great development of science outdistanced the ponderous machine of legislation which would not take count of the requirements of the time, and could not comprehend the voice of a society which consistently called for modern reform and the extension of pharmaceutical education. At the end of the nineteenth century, under the choking influence of prevailing regulations which had been quite outgrown, as stated above, a general decline in pharmaceutical vitality was obvious. The article re-

ferred to closes what it calls its description of the sixth period, namely, present day pharmacy, with little less than what is a regret for the deplorable condition into which the profession had fallen, and the still more deplorable circumstances that have made it impossible for it to be resuscitated until Russia becomes possessed of a new life.

Medical Notes.

Should Heroine be Abolished?

According to the *Medical World*, the movement for the abolition of heroine is spreading. When the drug was first introduced, in 1898, its claims to preference were based on the statement that it is free from constipating effects, does not conduce to the drug habit, and requires a smaller dose than is the case with morphine. Heroine came into vogue as a pulmonary sedative, and became a popular specific for irritable coughs. It is now contended that it possesses no outstanding virtues which are not common to morphine and codeine, and that, therefore, it is an unnecessary drug. Some medical men claim it to be less dangerous than morphine. The writer claims that heroine has distinctive properties that may justify its retention, and he suggests that "diacetyl-morphine" might be prescribed in place of heroine with advantage.

"N" for Narcotics.

The practice of putting the letter "N" on the label of narcotic prescriptions, says the *Bulletin of Pharmacy*, is quite common, and is an excellent course to pursue. The "N" precedes the number, if possible, and its presence saves a world of trouble. When the container is brought in for refill, one quick glance tells the tale.

Teaspoons Inaccurate.

Professor H. V. Army, at the last meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, read a paper entitled "The Tyranny of the Teaspoon," in which he referred to the discrepancy in the capacity of ordinary teaspoons. On investigation, he found a varying holding capacity ranging from 4.6 mils to 7.8 mils.

Modified Paraffin for Spraying Burns.

Menthol	1 Gm.
Eucalyptol	3 mils (Cc.)
Olive oil	10 mils (Cc.)
Soft paraffin	50 Gm.
Hard paraffin	150 Gm.

The menthol and eucalyptol are dissolved in the olive oil, and the mixture then well mixed with the paraffins, which have been melted and are about ready to congeal.

The *American Druggist* says that the above is in imitation of the original preparation of the French physician, De Sandfort, who introduced it, and revolutionised the treatment of burns by its use.

Specialists and Advertising.

The *Medical Journal of Australia* reports an extraordinary meeting of the New South Wales branch of the B.M.A., held on June 14, at which the following resolutions were carried:—

> "That no member shall notify other members of the profession by means of a circular letter or otherwise that he practises or intends to practise as a specialist in any particular branch of medical science, provided that this restriction shall not apply in the case of a member who does not undertake the immediate care of patients, that is to say, who does not attend patients except on behalf of or in consultation with the medical attendants of such patients.
>
> "That no member shall permit or be party to the publication of any specialty practised by him, or of his hours of consultation, in any telephone "list of subscribers."

The mover of the resolutions (Dr. R. H. Todd) said that the Council of the branch had had cause from time to time to guide members who wished to engage in specialist practice. In many of these instances a practitioner wished to announce to his colleagues that he was confining his activities to the clinical research work in the laboratory, and no objection had been raised to an announcement of this kind. On the other hand, the Council had arrived at the determination that it was undesirable for practitioners who were prepared to treat patients applying to them for advice, to advertise the fact that they proposed to practise as specialists. The Council had not encountered any difficulty in dealing with members, as they had been guided by the principle underlying the motion before the meeting. The Council thought that it would be well if members had a definite regulation dealing with this matter, so that in the future everyone would be aware of the proper course to take in the circumstances referred to.

The first resolution was carried unanimously, but a spirited discussion took place with regard to the practice of appending the term "Ophthalmic Surgeon" to a name in the telephone book. It was pointed out that ophthalmologists were in greater need of protection from competition from unqualified persons than any other group of practitioners, and that the insertion of the term referred to was a harmless practice, and was incapable of abuse. The reply to this was, if an exception were made in one case, other groups would claim the same privilege later on. In any case, it was thought the practitioner's name-plate should be a sufficient guide to patients. A proposal that the question be referred to the Federal Committee, in order that the general principle might be determined, was lost on a show of hands. The original motion was then put to the meeting, and was carried by a large majority.

THE AUSTRALASIAN
Journal of Pharmacy
(ESTABLISHED 1886.)

with which is incorporated the
Australasian Chemist and Druggist.
Founded 1878.

PUBLISHED ON THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH
BY THE
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

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Editorial.

Reflections on Ethics.

To devise a code of pharmaceutical ethics explicit and comprehensive, is not an easy task, nor it is intended in the scope of this article to attempt to do so. But, as a guide to the younger members of the craft, and in the absence of any authoritative ethical code, a few reflections on the subject may not be out of place, even if they only briefly indicate some of those moral principles of individual action and practice which constitute the ethics of a conscientious pharmacist.

The medical profession long ago adopted a series of written laws which are a great aid to practitioners in cases of doubt or ethical dispute. These clearly define the rights and duties of the medical faculty, not only as between the individual members of the profession, but also in their relation to the public and the members of other professions.

It may be contended that to the upright and conscientious man, written laws are unnecessary to define the path of duty. To such a man the character and authority of moral obligation are inherent. But, unfortunately, all of us are not blessed with such a clear conception of the rules of ethical conduct as to render superfluous the guidance which such a written code of practice, having the imprimatur of the governing pharmaceutical bodies, would ensure for us. That there is ample room for the compilation of a set of selected rules which might be used as a guide if occasion should arise to consult them no one for a moment can doubt. In many cases where questions of intra-professional etiquette have arisen, it has been plainly evident that doubt as to the right and proper course to pursue has been a serious hindrance to the settlement of the dispute. If some recognised code were available, it would unquestionably serve a useful purpose in this connection, and would act also as a stimulus to those entering upon their pharmaceutical career to apply the rules of conduct prescribed therein to their relationship with the public and their brother pharmacists.

Certain obligations are of necessity imposed upon the pharmacist in his intimate association with the medical profession, and the sick and afflicted, which at times are irksome and onerous, and which frequently are disproportionately recognised. Unpleasant duties, involving moral decisions, are sometimes cast upon him by the peculiar nature of the practice in which he is engaged. Irritation is apt to assail him in connection with unethical conduct on the part of another member of the craft. Lack of success may arouse jealous feelings in his breast towards some of his brother pharmacists. Doubt as to the proper course to pursue may in other cases lead to bitterness of spirit and life-long animosities.

If human nature were so constituted that we were all imbued with the idea of promoting the honour and dignity of our profession, of elevating its status, and extending its influence and usefulness, a high standard of moral excellence would be main-

tained, and no written code of ethical rules would be necessary. In the main, we believe Australian pharmacists are animated by a sincere desire to do the right thing, to work with amity towards their fellow craftsmen, and to fulfil their obligations to the public faithfully, conscientiously, and well. Unfortunately, it must be admitted, there are some to whom the ordinary rules of moral and social conduct are only scraps of paper, to be regarded or disregarded, as best suits their individual interest, and upon such any code of pharmaceutical ethics would be wasted. But to the young pharmacist, on the threshold of his career, we believe that a proper regard of the duties he owes to his profession can be instilled into his mind by his employer, by his teacher during his collegiate course, by those who train him in his profession, by the examiners through whose hands he passes, and by the pharmaceutical press. If the main principles of pharmaceutical ethics were thus brought under his notice, the influence upon him would be all for good, and the practical effect would be far-reaching. In every way it would make for the betterment of the craft and bring within the compass of attainment many desirable reforms which at present are unattainable because of the absence of some ethical code and the consequent lack of perspective regarding the historical traditions, the broad aims and purposes, and the possibilities of pharmacy as an important branch of the medical profession.

The Month.

Medico-Pharmaceutical Conference.

The friendly relationship which exists between medical men and pharmacists in Victoria has been again exemplified by the conference which took place on June 25 between representatives of the local branch of the B.M.A. and the Victorian Pharmacy Board. Not the least pleasing feature of the conference, which was called to discuss the question of dealing with the narcotic drug evil, was the generous expression of appreciation on the part of the medical delegates at the loyal manner in which pharmacists had co-operated in assisting to minimise the evil referred to. A frank recognition of the monetary sacrifices made by pharmacists was followed by an offer, on the part of the medical representatives, to assist pharmacists in securing a more adequate amount of protection than they now enjoy. Professor Berry, who presided over the conference, frankly admitted that the present law, which allowed potent and dangerous drugs to be handled by totally unqualified persons, was appalling. Pharmacists have suffered heavily under this disability for many years, but what the effect of the free and easy tolerance of quacks and charlatans upon the public health has been, can never be accurately estimated. A wealth of evidence upon this point has been collected by the Pharmacy Board, and it constitutes such an indictment upon the present system that no Government could afford to ignore the facts if full publicity were given to them. A further conference is to be held to discuss this important matter, and in the interest of the community it is hoped that such action will be taken as will terminate the present deplorable position, without further unnecessary delay.

Eaglehawk Dispensary Prosecutions.

The legal proceedings recently taken against the committee and dispenser of the Eaglehawk United Friendly Societies' Dispensary, which are reported in this issue, do not reflect any great credit on the management of the institution. That a qualified pharmacist should be so lacking in judgment — apart from a proper regard for the law on the subject — as to put spirits of salts into a Warner's Safe Cure bottle, with a leaky stopper, and at a later date to sell chlorodyne without affixing any name and address to the wrapper, is quite deplorable enough, and in our opinion merited a much heavier penalty than the magistrate imposed. But there is another aspect of the case which requires serious consideration. Apart from the lack of supervision, for which the Executive Committee must be held responsible, and for which a penalty was exacted, the evidence given at the prosecution disclosed a glaring disregard of the provisions of the Friendly Societies Act, inasmuch as the informant in the case was able, on several occasions, to obtain dangerous poisons and other goods from the dispensary, although he was not a member of any Friendly Society, and was not legally entitled to obtain them. This constitutes an unauthorised act, which the Friendly Societies statute does not permit, and is an unabashed departure from the agreement arrived at by the Friendly Societies' conference and the Pharmacy Board. The

law on the subject should have been well known to the Secretary, Mr. Treavean, as the Pharmacy Board wrote, setting out the position some months ago. It is apparent that the laxity shown in the matter is likely to involve the local lodges in serious trouble, unless early steps are taken to place the dispensary on a proper basis.

The Title of Chemist.

The Victorian branch of the Australian Chemical Institute is reported to be taking steps to obtain statutory recognition, and a Bill for this purpose is now under consideration. In this issue, Mr. E. W. Mayhew supports the contention that scientific chemists are entitled to the protection they are now seeking to obtain. His suggestion of a Federal Act of Parliament is not, however, feasible until there is an alteration of the Commonwealth constitution, but there is no reason why uniform Bills should not be drafted and introduced into the various State Houses of Parliament. Pharmacists have been promised ample protection of their rights, and their influence would without doubt be used to secure the safe passage of such a measure. It is interesting to note that Sir William Tilden, at the last annual meeting of the Institute of Chemistry, held in London, pointed out that the title problem was a difficult matter to solve. He advocated the education of public opinion as to what were the functions of chemistry, and expressed the hope that they might persuade their pharmaceutical friends to adopt a designation more appropriate to their calling than the word "Chemist." The satisfactory conference recently held in Victoria arrived at an agreement, which has met with general approval, and which, if given legislative endorsement, undoubtedly will conduce to an improvement in status of both the professional chemist and the pharmacist.

Origin of the Term "Patent Medicines."

An interesting article in a recent number of the *Canadian Druggist*, on the origin of the term "Patent Medicine," throws light upon a subject concerning which, in the minds of the public, there still appears to be considerable ignorance. Perhaps no English word has been so persistently misapplied as the term "patent" in its association with the word "medicine." As pointed out in the December issue of this journal, pharmacists and manufacturers have been a great deal to blame in not discriminating more accurately between what are falsely described as "patent medicines," but which, in reality, are "proprietary medicines." In the interests of the craft, the distinction which exists should be clearly understood and rigidly adhered to. The word "patent," when applied to medicines, means an article for which Letters Patent have been issued. There are, in fact, very few medicines which comply with this condition. The chief exceptions, until recently, were certain synthetics, chiefly of German origin, which were protected by Letters Patent — but even these have lost their significance by the abrogation of the patents by British communities since the war began. The origin of the term, "Patent Medicine," perhaps dates back to the time when royal favors were freely granted by kings. In early times, efficacious remedies were the subject of kingly patents, and from this arose the term "patent medicine." Webster's Dictionary quotes Madder as an example of this. "Madder," the dictionary says, "in Charles the First's time, was made a patent commodity." But now the king's prerogative has passed to the hands of the State, and it is the State which confers patent rights upon any particular product. The British courts, many years ago, settled the question as to what a patent medicine is, and since then the more correct and appropriate term "Proprietary" has come into more general use.

The B.M.A. and the Lodges.

At a full meeting of the Council of the Victorian Branch of the British Medical Association, held on July 11, it was decided to withdraw acceptance of the report of the Royal Commission unless the Friendly Societies agreed to the condition that Medical Institutes started or expanded since the commencement of the dispute were to be reduced to their former status and number. The meeting discussed the question of entering into direct contracts for medical treatment, and it was resolved that if the dispute were not settled by the end of the month, a member of any subdivision or district in which a dispensary had been established should be allowed, subject to the consent of the council being obtained, to enter into direct contracts for providing medical treatment to individuals on the conditions laid down in the model agreement.

Pharmacists are urged to meet the position likely to be created if the direct contract scheme is put into operation as liberally as possible pending the adoption of a definite arrangement regarding the fees to be paid for dispensing. A fair basis of agreement will probably be arrived

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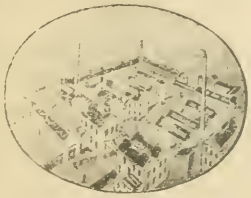

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60,000 INTRAVENOUS and INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTIONS administered in Military, Naval, and the principal General Hospitals throughout the United Kingdom, has demonstrated that this preparation is more **rapid and less toxic** in action than any compound of the "606" group, which accounts for the **consistently excellent clinical results without any undesirable by-effects.**

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Final Report of the Commissioners.
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"..... another French substitute, **GALYL**, a compound of arsenic and phosphorus, has recently come into prominence, and its use has been attended with considerable success."

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at when the scheme is fully developed, and in the meantime it is desirable only to enter into temporary arrangements to meet the exigencies of the immediate situation. There are big possibilities in the direct contract scheme (and some possible dangers if too high a dispensing rate is insisted upon). A promise has been made by the Council of the B.M.A. that the pharmacists will be consulted before the plans now under consideration are finally adopted,

New South Wales.

Pharmacy Board of New South Wales.

The regular meeting of this Board took place on July 9th at the Board Room, Sydney.

Present.—Mr. F. P. J. Gray (in the chair), and Messrs. T. S. Loney, W. Short, J. Dixson, J. Duncan, and E. Schofield. Apologies were received from absent members.

Correspondence.—The Registrar said that during the month there had been over 500 letters to deal with. It was decided that the Board would only deal with special correspondence, leaving the routine work in the hands of the President and the Registrar.

Sale of Cyanide.—The Graziers' Association wrote, calling attention to a resolution recently passed at their meeting, urging that special restrictions be placed on the sale and use of cyanide for the poisoning of opossums. It was stated that the losses to graziers was very great owing to cattle being poisoned by the careless distribution of cyanide baits. It was resolved to point out to the association that the matter would be dealt with in the Amended Poisons Act, and asking the influence of the association in getting this Act passed.

Certificate as Dispenser.—Percy Walters wrote from Fiji, stating that he was in charge of a hospital, and had had six years' experience as a dispenser at Penang. He asked that the Board grant him a certificate as a dispenser. The Board ordered that a reply be sent to the effect that they had no such power.

Poison in Mixtures.—A country chemist wrote, calling attention to a White Pine and Tar Mixture sold by storekeepers, containing one-fortieth per cent. of morphia and one-fifth per cent. of lobelia. The label did not bear the word "Poison," and the preparation was being freely sold by country storekeepers in his district. Mr. Gray said that in his opinion the manufacturers were highly censurable, although not liable under the Act. The retailer, however, was liable. He considered that the attention of the Minister for Health should be drawn to this case, which was a serious one, and involved a risk to infant life. It was resolved to call the attention of the Minister for Health to the matter, also to ask the complainant to assist in securing a conviction.

An Uncompleted Course.—Mr. W. J. Middleton asks if a certificate of registration could be granted to his son who was at the war. He had passed the preliminary, and served his apprenticeship, and had taken part of the University course, but never went up for his final. It was resolved to write that the son must complete his course on his return to Sydney both at the University and by passing his Final Examination.

Painkiller.—The agents for "Painkiller" wrote, asking that the Board certify that this preparation now contained no scheduled poison, in order that the storekeepers might sell it without fear of being prosecuted. The Board declined to give any such certificate, and resolved to send a reply that this was a matter which did not concern them.

Irish Qualification.—Thos. McBride, of Dubbo, asked if he might be registered on his Irish certificate. It was resolved to reply that only the Pharmaceutical Chemist Certificate of Ireland would be recognised by the Board.

Illegal Sale of Strychnia.—The police at Narromine reported a case of the illegal sale of strychnia. It was resolved to ask the Crown Law Department to prosecute in this matter, as the local police had evidence of the committal of the offence.

Use of Board Room.—A letter was read from the Minister for Health stating that it was desirable to re-arrange the offices in the buildings of Richmond Terrace so as to provide for Red Cross work for blind soldiers. It was proposed that the Aborigines Protection Board and the Dental Board should use the office of the Pharmacy Board for their Board meetings. It was resolved to make such arrangements that Board meetings should not clash, and a reply to that effect was ordered to be sent to the Minister.

Payments to Mr. Miller.—A letter was read from the Under-Secretary, asking what steps had been taken to make up the difference in pay between the salary of Mr. Miller and the payment he received from the military authorities since his enlistment. The Registrar reported that the matter had been referred to the Crown Law Department, asking what power the Board had in the matter, and a reply had not yet been received.

Reinstatement.—Mr. H. E. Perry asked that he might be allowed to appear before the Board to plead his case for reinstatement. Mr. Schofield proposed, and Mr. T. S. Loney seconded, a motion that the request of Mr. Perry be not acceeded to. This motion was carried unanimously.

Appointment of Lecturer in Pharmacy.—A letter was received from Prof. Chapman, stating that Mr. Sydney H. Stroud had been appointed lecturer in pharmacy to the University, and that he would commence his duties on July 18th. The letter was received, and the Board members expressed satisfaction at the arrangements made.

Preliminary Examination.—Mr. W. Power, a returned soldier, asked for a Preliminary Examination in September or October. It was resolved to hold such an examination if twelve candidates could be obtained.

Illegal Sale of Poisons.—A country chemist complained of the illegal sale of poisons which, he said, went on in his neighbourhood. It was resolved to reply that if complainant would furnish evidence to substantiate the charge proceedings would be taken. The President said that complaints were often made by persons who would not appear to give evidence in prosecutions. This put the Board to great trouble and expense. If prosecutions were to be undertaken, they must have local co-operation.

Treasurer's Statement.—This showed a credit balance of £146 13s. 7d. Accounts amounting to £79 2s. 11d. were passed for payment.

Preliminary Examination. — The Preliminary Examiners' Report was placed on the table. The following candidates were reported to have passed in the order of merit stated:—E. F. Sone, J. P. L. Hinchcliffe, J. Reid, W. Headley, H. C. Finn, N. Hall, R. J. Hawkins, N. F. Orr, D. O. Evans, L. R. Evans, J. H. Stewart, H. Anderson, E. W. Lane, K. R. Napier, F. Bowden P. E. Carey, C. T. Kealy, A. L. Crosby, S. Erwin, H. Haynes, and E. C. Cahill. The report was formally received.

Final Examination.—A letter was read from Dr. Chapman, saying that the Materia Medica examination would finish on July 8th, and that the results would be available at the end of the week. A letter was also read from Mr. L. Connolly, stating that he desired to enlist, and wished to present himself for the Final Examination before enlistment. Mr. Allan Greig and Mr. W. King also wrote to the same effect. It was resolved that the next Final Examination be held on July 29th, and following days.

Registration under Pharmacy Act.—T. A. J. Byrnes applied through his father, he having passed the Final Examination and attained the age of 21 years. He was on active service abroad. It was resolved to accept the declaration of the father and grant the application for registration. G. E. Plowman, of Sydney, a pharmaceutical chemist of Ireland, applied for registration, on his declaration, etc. Registration was granted.

Pharmacists' Poisons Licenses were granted to T. A. J. Byrnes and G. E. Plowman.

Annual Poisons Licenses were granted to seven country storekeepers, and two renewals were also granted.

In Lieu of Preliminary.—The Intermediate Examination certificates of O. V. Childe and of D. J. Chapman were accepted in lieu of Preliminary.

Duplicate Certificate.—Mr. E. E. C. Schofield applied for a new certificate of having passed the Final examination to be granted to him in lieu of one that had accidentally been destroyed, but the remains of which he produced. The request was granted.

Registration of Indentures. — The following were registered:—F. W. W. Herbert to W. V. Weale, of Stanmore; W. J. Tinning to Messrs. Pattinson and Co., Sydney; J. J. Flannery to J. J. Enright, of Randwick; C. J. McCulloch to O. O'Halloran, of Sydney; W. L. Healy to A. C. Dash, of Randwick

The Board adjourned.

Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales.

The regular monthly meeting of the Council was held on July 2nd at the office of the Pharmacy Board, Sydney, at 3 p.m.

Present.—Mr. Jas. Dixson (President) in the chair, and Messrs. W. Short, T. M. Goldrick, T. H. Dick, F. P. J. Gray, and A. Rogers. Apologies were received from absent members.

A Doctor's Complaint.—A letter was received, written by a medical practitioner in a country town, complaining of the conduct of a pharmacist in the town, who was virtually practising as a medical man and injuring the doctor's practice. The Council decided that it had no power to do anything in the matter. Regret was expressed that the conduct of the pharmacist appeared to be such that the doctor appeared to have good grounds for complaint.

Valuing Services.—A letter was received from Mr. C. A. Finch, of Coff's Harbour, complaining that he could not get any satisfactory settlement of a claim that he had made against the Government for the sum of £552 for medicines and first aid work in the district to men in State employ. The Government had offered to settle the matter by paying about half of what Mr. Finch claimed. The Council was asked to say if it considered Mr. Finch's claim a fair one for the services rendered. After considerable discussion the Council decided that the matter was purely one between Mr. Finch and the department. The Council could not form any opinion on the value of the services rendered, as it had not sufficient data to guide it. The matter was furthermore outside the Council's province.

Commissions for Pharmacists.—A letter was read from Staff-Sgt. R. P. Penman, complaining of the injustice done to pharmacists by the military authorities in not granting commissions to pharmacists who were in charge of military hospitals, etc. He pointed out that the duties were such as to merit better pay and a higher rank.

Mr. Dixson said he had every sympathy with the complainant. Pharmacists had been led to expect the rank and the increased pay. He considered that all qualified dispensers were worthy of the commissioned rank.

Mr. Gray said that men in charge of the dispensaries of military hospitals certainly should rank as military officers. He thought that Captain Wadsworth would move in the matter. He thought that they should write to Captain Wadsworth and enclose a copy of the letter from Mr. Penman.

All members of Council expressed themselves in favour of steps being taken to again attempt to secure commissioned rank for pharmacists.

Finally, it was decided that a letter be sent to the Minister for Defence on the subject, enclos-

ing a copy of the letter as received; also that other societies be asked to co-operate in the renewed attempt to obtain the commissioned rank for all pharmacists. The motion was proposed by Mr. F. P. J. Gray and seconded by Mr. A. Rodgers, and carried unanimously.

It was also decided to write to Mr. Penman and inform him what steps were being taken.

The Microscopical Society.—A letter was received from the secretary of the Microscopical Society of N.S.W., informing the Council that it was their intention to hold a conversazione on August 8th, and inviting the members of Council to be present. It was decided to acknowledge and accept the invitation.

The Title of Chemist.—A letter was received from the Victorian Pharmaceutical Society, with an account of the conference recently held on the matter for the guidance of the Council when the matter should be brought forward in Sydney. Mr. Foster said that when Professor Chapman mentioned the matter recently he was informed that the Council considered that they had a vested right in the title of chemist, and on no consideration would they relinquish their claim, which was established by custom and Act of Parliament.

Incompatibles.—The matter of the list of synthetic drugs and their incompatibles as compiled by Mr. A. R. Bailey and Mr. John Lunn, of Queensland, was brought up, and was referred to the special committee appointed to deal with the matter. It was decided that this committee would meet at an early date and go through the list.

Treasurer's Statement.—This showed a credit balance of £857/1/4, with £14/10/4 in the Benevolent Fund. Accounts for current expenses were passed for payment.

New Member.—Mr. W. F. Roff, of Sydney, applied for membership, and was elected by ballot.

Book Received.—Mr. J. H. Maiden forwarded the 34th part of "A Critical Revision of the Genus Eucalyptus" for the library. A vote of thanks was passed for the gift.

The Council adjourned.

The New South Wales Association of Master Pharmacists.

Since last report the following meetings have been held:—Executive Committee, 20th June, 1918, and 11th July, 1918; Overhead Charges Committee, 11th July, 1918; and the following important matters dealt with:—

Poisons by Post.—Owing to the notification in the Press of the regulation prohibiting the transmission of poisons by post, a letter setting out the peculiar position of the Pharmacist in being compelled to make use of the post, was sent to the Postmaster-General, also Mr. Butchers, of P.D.L., was asked to take some action to obtain a modification of the regulation in favour of Pharmacists. The efforts of Mr. Butchers were very satisfactory, he having at an interview with the Central Post Office Authorities tentatively agreed to the following summary of proposed new regulations:—

Summary of Proposed New Regulations.—1. The present regulations (on top of page 31 of the Postal Guide) prohibiting deadly poisons being sent through the post will be cancelled.

2. Prussic acid, cyanide of potassium, corrosive acids and phosphorus and all preparations of phosphorus for the destruction of vermin will be specifically prohibited from transmission.

3. Strychnine (in powder form), arsenic, morphine and cocaine may be transmitted by post if the following conditions are complied with:—

(a) The bottle containing the poison shall be enclosed in a wooden case, which shall be made from a solid piece of wood bored out to the size of the bottle, and shall have a secure wooden lid.

(b) The article shall be sent by registered packet post.

(c) The packet shall be labelled "Poison," with the name and address of the seller.

Memo.—This will allow all other poisons to go through the post provided they are packed in accordance with regulation No. 220 (3), page 81 of the Postal Guide.

Registered packet post allows parcels up to 5 lbs. to be sent.

The thanks of the Association are accorded to Mr. Butchers for having successfully handled this matter, and also to Mr. H. C. Aiken, of Adelong, who brought the matter before the Association.

Weights and Measures Act.—The following resolution was carried and sent to the Weights and Measures Department, and to the Chief Secretary:—

"Moved by Mr. J. K. Wilson, seconded Mr. W. S. Park—That a letter be sent to Superintendent of Weights and Measures Department, Hay-street, Sydney, pointing out that while the proprietors of bottle factories permit their workmen a variation of 12½ per cent. in the bottle measurement, part 7, sub-clause 4 of the Weights and Measures Regulations only allow a variation in deficiency of 5 per cent., thus creating a very great hardship to be borne by the bottler or retailer of those preparations covered by the regulations; and that a copy of the letter be sent to the Minister in Charge of Weights and Measures administration."

It is understood from various sources that this matter is receiving favourable consideration.

In connection with the marking of net weight or measure on any article enclosed in a package, Mr. C. F. Webster has succeeded, on behalf of the Committee, in having a suitable revolving rubber stamp made with the necessary figures and weights to comply with the regulations, and same has been passed by the Department. The Association has ordered 30 of these stamps to be made (costing 6/6 each), this being the maximum supply which can be obtained until more material arrives from America.

Overhead Charges Committee.—The following resolution has been carried:—

It was resolved, on motion moved by Mr. J. K. Wilson, seconded by Mr. W. S. Park—"That the Overhead Charges Committee appointed by

General Meeting held 16th May, 1918, be hereby instructed and empowered to act as a special vigilance committee in re price fixation as it may affect pharmacists, and be also hereby authorised to take any action it may deem fit for and on behalf of this Association regarding such matter.

Lodge Dispensing.—A sub-committee has been appointed to go into the matter of lodge dispensing as to—(a) rate, (b) basis of rate, (c) agreements.

New Members.—The following members were enrolled during June and July:—T. A. Brown, Byron Bay; Arthur McKellar, 29 Oxford-street, Waverley; J. Harrison Jones, Blackheath; T. R. Peak, Nowra; Joscelyne, North Sydney; C. Lillyman, Albury; V. D. Johnson, Darlinghurst; Halfam's Ltd., Hunter-street, Sydney; D. Patchell, Mosman; H. P. Smith, Tingha; W. M. Evans, Kempsey; G. T. Carpenter, Croydon; L. Crawford, Gundagai.

Victoria.

Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

The monthly meeting of the Board was held on Wednesday, July 10, at 11 a.m.

Present.—The President (Mr. Towl) in the chair, and Messrs. Bailey, Buckhurst, Fleay, Gulliver and Jewkes. An apology for non-attendance was received from Mr. Sayer.

The minutes of the meeting held June 19 were read and confirmed.

Correspondence.—Letters outwards Nos 492-584 were laid on the table, and, with inward correspondence, included the following:—Crown Law Department, returning police brief of evidence in the case of W. G. Ross, and stating that the Board had been advised that it had no power to take any further action in the matter.

The Under Secretary, stating that the Board regretted that the annual Government grant had been reduced from £200 to £100, and forwarding a list of prosecutions instituted by the Board for six months ended June 30, 1918. The penalties imposed in these cases amounted to £50 9s., and the costs to £54/18/-. A formal acknowledgment of this communication was received from the Under Secretary.

Mr. T. P. Tighe, New Norfolk, Tasmania, wrote asking if the Board accepted apprenticeship served in another State A reply in the affirmative was forwarded.

Mr. A. H. Dentry, late of Geelong, wrote intimating that he was now residing in Fiji, and had applied for registration in that country.

The Registrar of the Pharmacy Board of Queensland asked to be informed what had been done in Victoria with regard to apprentices leaving on military service, and whether the Board allowed any concession under these circumstances. A reply was sent forwarding a copy of the Medical Act 1916 and regulations made thereunder which gave the Board power to remit a period not exceeding 12 months of the four years' term of apprenticeship.

The Secretary of the Law Department wrote forwarding proof of matter intended for inclusion in a Government booklet to be issued in London relating to the course of qualifications required of a pharmaceutical chemist in Victoria. The Registrar stated that he had corrected the proof referred to, and had received an acknowledgment expressing the thanks and appreciation of the department.

Mr. Thomas Griffin wrote asking if the University made any concessions in matriculation to students who had passed the Preliminary Examination. Informed that the only concession made applied to those who had passed the Board's Final Examination.

Applications for Registration.—The following applicants having passed the Final Examination in June, 1918, were registered:—Thomas Henry Ryan, 47 Elizabeth-street, Melbourne; Colin Hall Simpson, 320 High-street, St. Kilda; Frederick Rex Tyler, 195 Nelson-street, Williamstown; Robert H. McBurney, Sydney-street, Kilmore; Henry A. Bosselman, 338 Collins-street, Melbourne; Wm. Beary Maine, 8 Bridge-street, Ballarat; George S. B. Netherway, 156 Wellington-street, Kew; Dorothy Zoe Warry, 705 Burwood-road, Auburn; Frederick A. Bankes, Dandenong; Gavin Inglis Robertson, Church-street, Middle Brighton; Elsie Randall Wasley, 26 Yarra street, Hawthorn; Sybil L. Wells, Jennings-street, Kyneton; Geo. Marshall Dorman, 16 Male-street, Brighton.

Enrolment of Managers.—The following notifications under Regulations 77 and 78 were received:—Mrs. S. Lilburne appointed to manage Mr. W. S. Dyer's branch pharmacy in Glenhuntly-road, Elsternwick.—Mr. B. G. Lewis purchased the business of the late C. L. M. Bourdic, 98 Spencer-street, Melbourne.—Mr. N. Corson disposed of his Koroit business to his son, Mr. R. S. Corson.—Mr. J. W. Hawkins relinquished position of manager of U.F.S. Dispensary, St Arnaud.

Apprentices' Indentures Registered.—The following apprenticeship indentures were registered:—Gladys Muriel Bridgford to W. M Jewkes, Essendon; Lindsey Milne Knight to F. Newman, Balaclava; Elizabeth Margaret Round to J. Digby, Richmond; Rosa Mary McGinnis to S. A. Burrows, Fitzroy; Janet Moina Loughnan to C. T. Loughnan, Clifton Hill; Thomas Verdon Dobson to R. W. Wilkinson, Glenferrie; Clarence Edward Matthews to W. B. Reid, Moonee Ponds; Eric Hartley Edwards to C. Hembrow, Beechworth; Linda Florence Smith to H. F. Sambell, Warrnambool; Hector Lennox Brewer to D. J. B. Tait, Melbourne; Ernest N. P. Broberg to W. S. Dyer, Toorak; Arthur Baron to B. G. Lewis, Melbourne. The indentures of Lyndal F. Davis were transferred from W. M. Jewkes to T. A. C. Sayle, Sandringham. The indentures of Mary Mowat were cancelled by mutual consent on 9th February, 1918, the apprentice having married.

Poisons Licenses.—The following license under the Poisons Act was granted:—Benjamin B. Craigie, Cowangie. The license held by Robert Annear, Cobden, was transferred to Alfred William Pollock, Cobden.

Preliminary Examination Exemptions.—The following applicants submitted satisfactory University certificates of having passed in the required number of subjects to exempt them from the Preliminary Examination:—Simon R. Bray, Ernest N. P. Broberg, Rosa M. McGinnis, Medicis V. Jago, and Annie M. Wills. Exemption certificates were therefore granted in each case.

Prosecutions and Inquiries.—The Registrar reported that the following prosecutions had taken place during the month:—J. H. Taylor, grocer, South Melbourne, fined £2, with £3/5/- costs, for selling phenyle in a dry ginger ale bottle unlabelled.

The President of the Eaglehawk Dispensary (as the nominal defendant appearing for the executive committee) was fined £1, with £5/18/- costs, for selling Spirits of Salts in a Warner's Safe Cure bottle.

W. T. Linton, dispenser at the Eaglehawk U.F.S. Dispensary, was fined £2, with costs £2 9/3, for selling chlorodyne not labelled in accordance with the provisions of the Poisons Act.

J. M. Glover and Co., Dunolly, were fined on July 9 £1, with £4/19/3 costs, for selling "S.A.P." Rabbit Poison, not bearing the seller's name and address. At the same court, Agnes and Susan Daly, storekeepers, were fined £2, with £4/19/3 costs, for illegally selling strychnine contained in a preparation known as Fellow's Syrup.

A further prosecution was authorised at South Melbourne in connection with the sale of phenyle not properly labelled.

Other matters relating to prospective prosecutions were dealt with in committee.

Conference with the B.M.A.—The Registrar submitted a report of the Conference with the representatives of the British Medical Association relating to the sale of hypnotic and narcotic drugs. In moving the adoption of the report, Mr. Fleay said that the Conference had been most satisfactory. Mr. Jewkes, in seconding the motion, said that he was very pleased to observe that the medical delegates appeared to be favourable towards endeavoring to obtain legislation on the lines of the draft bill which had been prepared by the Board. The motion for the adoption of the report was carried.

New South Wales Examinations.—The Registrar said that he had not yet been able to obtain the information asked for by Mr. Bailey in reference to the New South Wales Intermediate Examination. He would be in Sydney next month, when he would make personal inquiries regarding the matter.

Financial.—The Hon. Treasurer submitted the monthly financial statement showing credit balance of £148/4/4. Accounts amounting to £52 8/- were passed for payment, and the meeting adjourned.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia.

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, on Wednesday, 3rd July, at 10.30 a.m.

Present. — The President (Major Cossar), in the chair, and Messrs. Bailey, Champion, Francis, Gabriel, Imes, Leete, Owen, Pickford, and Taylor.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. Kernot and Lee.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence.—The following letters were received:—

Sir John M. Higgins, K.C.M.G., acknowledging the Society's congratulations and good wishes on the recent distinction conferred upon him by the King.

The executors of the late Mr. H. T. Tompsitt, expressing thanks on behalf of Mr. Tompsitt's daughter, and themselves, for the letter of sympathy sent by the Council.

Mr. E. Norton Grimwade, expressing appreciation at the Council's congratulatory resolution on the occasion of the additional honors conferred upon his brother, Brigadier-General Harold W. Grimwade, C.M.G.

Lieut. Fred. Grimwade, acknowledging the Council's good wishes and congratulations on his safe return to Victoria.

Mr. J. A. Jones, Caulfield, on behalf of himself and family, thanking the Council for letter of sympathy on the death of his son, Malcolm, on active service, and expressing appreciation at the appreciative resolution in connection with the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to his son, Captain Murray Jones.

Mr. Herbert G. Varker, Ph.C., wrote offering to deliver an illustrated lantern lecture at the College, on the Wellcome Materia Medica Farm of Medicinal Plants, which he thought would be of interest, not only to pharmaceutical students, but also to master pharmacists. It was resolved to accept Mr. Varker's kind offer, and to make arrangements for the delivery of the lecture early in September.

Surgeon-General J. W. Anderson, Australian Imperial Force, Horseferry-road, London, acknowledging receipt of copies of the Pharmaceutical Register for 1918, which would be of great assistance to him in ascertaining the exact status of men employed as Staff-Sergt. Dispensers.

Mr. J. W. Harris, Beaufort, asking for information regarding pharmacists dispensing repeat prescriptions without a doctor's order. Informed that, although this practice was not illegal, pharmacists had to accept responsibility for any untoward consequences following such practice.

Heans' Essence Proprietary, Sydney, in reference to their advertisement in the journal, and in reply to a letter from the Council pointing out that firms using the pages of the journal secured the goodwill of pharmacists, who were directly interested in the journal as owners and publishers.

Staff-Sergt. J. E. Crimmins, to whom the position of dispenser at the Venereal Clinic was offered by the Society, expressing regret that he was precluded from accepting the offer, as he had had to undergo an operation consequent on the effects of an attack of trench fever, he contracted at the front.

Mr. F. A. Guenther, Numurkah, asking for certain information re Wages Board determination. Informed that the award did not apply to

country towns, other than Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Warrnambool.

Mr. E. G. Eberle, editor of the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association, thanking the Council for advice re Major Cossar's movements, and expressing regret that American pharmacists did not have an opportunity of seeing more of Major Cossar during his visit to the United States.

Mr. A. E. Ponsford, applying for order for College blazer.

Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia, stating that the list of Incompatibles of Synthetic Drugs had been referred to a committee for report.

Department of Repatriation, forwarding cheque for £15, in payment of a returned pharmacy student's college fees.

Staff-Sergt. W. T. G. Pinches, India, thanking the Council for sending copies of the Journal, which were greatly appreciated by the Australian pharmacists in India.

Other formal correspondence inwards and outwards was laid on the table.

Election of New Members.—The following new Associate members were ballotted for and elected: — George S. B. Netherway, Kew; Frank A. Denkes, South Melbourne; Frederick A. Bankes, Dandenong; Gavin I. Robertson, Middle Brighton.

Mr. Tompsitt's Legacy.—A letter was received from Mr. S. Fripp, one of the executors of the late Mr. H. T. Tompsitt, stating that Mr. Tompsitt had left the Society £2000 for the founding of a Scholarship.

The President said that they were all very grateful to Mr. Tompsitt for having remembered the Society in this way. It was the first gift of this kind the Society had received. When he was in London, one of the first things he noticed when visiting the School of Pharmacy at Bloomsbury Square, was the Legacy Board in the main hall, containing a long list of well-known names, the memory of which had been perpetuated by gifts such as Mr. Tompsitt had made.

Mr. Owen said that Mr. Tompsitt always had the welfare of the Society at heart. During the time Mr. Tompsitt was in London, he (Mr. Owen) had kept in close touch with him, and frequently received letters which evinced a continued interest in the Society's progress. He moved that a letter be written to the executors expressing the Council's appreciation of the legacy. Mr. Champion said he had much pleasure in seconding the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Pickford moved, Mr. Bailey seconded— That the President and Honorary Treasurer wait upon Mr. Fripp, with a view of ascertaining Mr. Tompsitt's wishes in regard to the legacy, and that the Education Committee be subsequently convened to draw up a report for presentation to the Council at a later meeting. Mr. Bailey said that if portion of the money could be utilised in erecting an H. T. Tompsitt Memorial Hall, he thought it would be in accordance with Mr. Tompsitt's wishes. The balance of the legacy could then be invested as a Scholarship Fund. These were matters to be considered, but they could not be finally dealt with until Mr. Tompsitt's exact wishes were known. Mr. Pickford's resolution was then carried.

Nurses' Registration Bill. — The secretary reported that Dr. Robertson, chairman of the Board of Public Health, had informed him that the Government had decided to accept the Society's recommendations in regard to the Nurses' Registration Bill, which would be introduced during the forthcoming session of Parliament.

Earlier Closing.—The President said that the question of taking a referendum on 6 o'clock closing was before the Council, having been postponed from the last meeting. Mr. Imes said he thought the time was not yet ripe to take a referendum. He moved that the question be discussed at a future date. Mr. Leete seconded the motion, which was carried.

"Eutosal." — It was reported that Dr. Plowman had written to Senator Fairbairn, requesting his assistance in endeavouring to induce the Acting Prime Minister to adopt the word "Eustosal" as an official synonym for acetyl salicylic acid B.P. Senator Fairbairn had been absent in Queensland for some weeks, but he had telegraphed that he would attend to the matter upon his return to Melbourne. The secretary said he had been unable to arrange an interview with Mr. Watt. It was resolved that a letter be written to the Commonwealth Law Department, setting out the Society's views on the matter, and asking that steps be taken to officially adopt the word "Eutosal." Mr. Pickford, in moving this resolution, said he did not wish the matter to drop, as they had promised New South Wales pharmacists that they would use their influence to secure official recognition of the word. Mr. J. K. Wilson, Hon. Sec. of the Sydney Western Suburbs' Pharmacists' Association, wrote thanking the Council for taking the question up.

Additional Laboratory Accommodation. — A letter was received from Dr. Sidney Plowman, director of the College, pointing out the necessity for providing additional laboratory accommodation. Every bench was now occupied, and the possibility of larger classes in the near future rendered the question a somewhat urgent one. It was resolved that the Education Committee meet on Friday, July 5, and confer with the Director on the subject.

Alleged Treatment of Diphtheria.—In connection with the complaint of Dr. Kingsley Norris that a pharmacist had treated a child suffering from diphtheria, a letter was received from the pharmacist referred to, stating that when the child was brought to him he at once advised the mother to see a medical man as soon as possible, and that the treatment he gave was merely for the relief of the child's throat in the interval. This explanation had been forwarded to Dr. Norris, with the comment that, in the opinion of the Council, this was the practice generally followed by pharmacists in dealing with cases of sore throats in children.

Military Pharmacists in India.—Further correspondence on this subject was received. Major

Cossar said that certain steps had been taken in connection with this matter. From what he had ascertained, the men's services were greatly appreciated by the Imperial authorities. He was hopeful that in the near future any grievances which existed would be remedied.

Wages Board.—A copy of the Wages Board determination was laid on the table. Mr. Pickford reported that the award had been fairly well received. Neither side was altogether satisfied, but on the whole he thought the award was a fair one. It was likely to remain in force for twelve months. When the Factories Act was being amended, there were one or two matters he would like to bring before the Council. Report received and adopted.

General Business.—Mr. Pickford reported that he had attended a meeting of the Australian Chemical Institute, of which he had been admitted a member. There was a probability of a Bill being drafted to legalise the chemical profession. If this were done, the Council would be consulted.

The Hon. Treasurer submitted the half-yearly statement of accounts, which were received and forwarded to the auditors for their certificate.

It was decided to make a grant from the Benevolent Fund of 10s. a week for three months to the orphan son of a deceased pharmacist.

Mr. W. Bucknall, a member of the staff, having received an appointment in the Navy Office, the secretary reported having made temporary arrangements, pending the return of the clerk (Mr. F. C. Kent). Secretary's action endorsed.

The secretary was granted the usual leave of absence. The President took the opportunity of wishing Mr. Butchers a pleasant holiday.

The date of the next Council meeting was fixed for Thursday, August 15.

Accounts were passed for payment, and the meeting adjourned.

Metropolitan Chemists' Association.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The usual monthly meeting of the above was held in the College, on the 16th inst., when there were present—Mr. J. F. Hughes (chairman) and Messrs. Keays, Tyler, Wallis, Bartleman, Hislop, Madge, Hadden, Charles, Attwood, Yelland and Garrick. Amongst the correspondence was a large number of acknowledgments of the receipt of the list of alterations in the price-list, with many expressions of approval. Some of the prices tabulated were discussed as to the advisability of amending them (owing to sharp rises in costs) but it was decided to allow the new prices with the exceptions mentioned below to be tenative for a month, by which time members will have had an opportunity for full consideration of the matter. It was unanimously agreed that six penny worth should be the minimum sold of the expensive liquid drugs such as Ol. Caryoph, Creosote, Preparations of Iodine, etc., etc.

The alterations agreed to were—Wooldridge's Tr. 2/-, Angier's Emulsion 2/9 and 4/9. Additions—S & J., and J. & J. Cotton Wool in pkts., ½oz. 4d., 1oz. 8d., 2oz. 1/3, 4oz. 2/-, 8oz. 3/6, 16oz. 6/-, Boric Lint, 1oz. cartons 9d.

The committee has issued a list of additions and alterations in prices which brings the M.C.A. price list up to date. The charge for this is 1s. The profit is to be expended in the monthly circularisation of all pharmacists, as has been done in the recent past. Every pharmacist is asked to carefully consider the alterations in prices, and, if any in his opinion should be amended, to acquaint the Secretary of his local section or Mr. J. Garrick. Special attention is called to the prices marked "(fixed)" which, by the Chief Prices Commissioners edict, must not be exceeded. The list is printed on slips in galley form. The slips are perforated, and the edge gummed so that the altered prices may be torn off and attached to the pages in the price book indicated in the margin.

Queensland.

Pharmacy Board of Queensland.

Meeting held 11th July, 1918.

Present.—The President, Mr. R. C. Park, Messrs. R. Lenehan, H. J. C. Dent, W. F. S. Fox, J. C. Minnis, D. J. Clarke, W. R. Colledge, and the Registrar.

Minutes of Last Meeting.—Read and confirmed.

Outward Letters.—Approved.

Inward Letters.—From Mr. W. Griffiths, of Charters Towers, re his son on military service, postponed from last meeting.

Mr. R. Lenehan proposed, and Mr. Colledge seconded, the following resolution, which was carried:—"That a regulation be drafted and incorporated in those now under review by the Home Office, to the effect that a remission of a portion of the apprenticeship of apprentices now on military service be allowed at the discretion of the Board on the apprentice making application to the Board when supported in his application by his master." The registrar was directed to convey this information to Mr. Griffiths.

A letter was received from the Registrar of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria in reply to the Board's letter asking for information on the regulations dealing with apprentices on war service. This was supplied.

An application was received from Mr. A. B. McLean to have his pass at the recent College mid-term examination accepted in lieu of the Intermediate examination. This was granted.

Mrs. Brown, widow of the late W. H. Brown, Chemist, Wynnum, wrote asking permission to carry on her late husband's business at Wynnum under the qualified management of Mr. M. B. Barnard. This was granted for a period of 12 months.

From the Manager, Q.N. Bank, stating that the Board's fixed deposit No. A662 matured on the 3rd instant, and asking the Board's instructions on its disposal, and also that of the accrued interest thereon. It was decided that both the

amount and the interest should be again placed on fixed deposit and that the bank be notified accordingly.

From Mr. Denis O'Hara, of Cairns, supplying a declaration before a J.P. in lieu of the 5th Schedule as requested by the Board at the last meeting. This was noted.

From Mr. P. G. Gee, of Ipswich, presenting a 5th Schedule signed on behalf of his late apprentice, Reginald Matthews Williams, who had served a portion of his apprenticeship with him. This was noted.

From Mr. J. P. Davies asking that the Articles of Miss Edith E. Smith be cancelled. Informed that Miss Smith must also write consenting to the cancellation, and that the Articles be returned for endorsement by the Board.

From the Home Secretary's Department returning the Pharmacy Act Regulations, with instructions for their amendment. These amendments were authorised, and the registrar was instructed to return them when complete. An additional regulation concerning the management of branch shops owned by a pharmaceutical chemist was authorised.

Financial.—The Treasurer read the financial statement for the month of June, and several accounts were passed for payment.

General.—Preliminary Examination Results.—The following passed:—S. H. Hunter, Miss E. Everett mercy clause in Latin, A. W. Eberhardt, F. Threlfall mercy clause in Algebra, E. O'Shea.

Intermediate Examination.—Notification of the results of this examination when obtained from the examiner was left in the hands of the president and treasurer.

Erasures from Register.—On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Lenehan, the names of W. H. Brown, of Wynnum South, and of Stewart Millar Beattie, whose address is given in the register as Brisbane, were directed to be erased from the Register.

Diplomas Granted.—Diplomas were granted to the following persons:—J. H. Richards, New Zealand; T. H. McMullan, Innisfail; J. A. Wilson, Thursday Island; and a resolution was passed authorising the seal of the Board to be attached.

Meeting terminated.

Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland.

Council meeting June 20th, 1918.

Present.—Mr. R. C. Park, President; Messrs. T. J. Rutter, J. P. Davies, G. J. Mackay, D. J. Clarke, H. J. C. Dent, and H. E. Crease. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs J. Lunn and T. J. F. Costin.

Minutes of Last Meeting.—Read and confirmed.

Letters Outward.—Read and approved.

Letters Inward.—From Mr. C. L. Butchers, enclosing abstracts from Melbourne papers dealing with supplies of alcohol and on other matters.

From the Metropolitan Chemists' Association of Victoria notifying alterations in their price list.

From the Editor of the "Chemist and Druggist" dealing with subject matter which may be brought before the Price Fixing Commission. The Editor was thanked for his information.

From Mr. C. Ridgley, Returning Officer, notifying the election of Messrs. Mackay, Forbes, Costin and Lenehan to the Council, there being no other nominations.

From Mr. S. W. G. Rick referring to the method of storing and handling poisons in the Gatton Agricultural College. This letter was passed over from the Board to the Council of the Society.

Financial.—The treasurer read the financial statement for the month of May, and several accounts were passed for payment.

General.—The agreement between Country Retail Shopkeepers and Shop Assistants and Warehouse Employees' Association was explained by the Secretary, and the manner in which it affected Chemists. He said that on instructions from the President he had sent out copies of the Government Gazette to members in the Southern District with the circular letter calling their attention to it. A protest against the agreement becoming a common rule was lodged by the chemists of Bundaberg, Ipswich, and Toowoomba, in which the president and secretary were appointed their representatives in court. Later the objection of the chemists was allowed.

Plate Glass Insurance.—Mr. Mackay called attention to the necessity of increasing insurance on plate glass, owing to the enormous increase in cost of glass. In one case reported lately it cost a shop-keeper £65 in addition to that allowed to him by the Insurance Company. Not only should insurance on window glass be overhauled, but also that on all shop fittings, carboys, etc.

Vote of Condolence.—A vote of condolence was passed to Mr. W. J. Costin on the death of his son, and a letter was directed to be sent to him.

Meeting terminated.

Business in Queensland.

The difficulty in obtaining stocks from overseas is becoming more pronounced. There does not appear to be any very decided shortage in England, but as drugs are only exported under permit, much delay is caused; often several months will pass by before the permit trickles through. Quite a quantity of fine chemicals arrives in the Commonwealth by parcels post from America, that method of carriage being now almost as cheap as the usual method. Freight on Japanese goods has gone up enormously, and is now much higher than that from America. The price of bottles has almost soared out of sight, and scarce at that. Factories in New South Wales and Victoria have enough to do to keep pace with local demands, and the one bottle factory in S. Brisbane is taxed to its utmost without the bottle requirements of the drug trade. Retailers must be prepared for higher and still higher prices, and they can only pass the extra cost on to the consumer. Retail chemists who have not followed market prices are sometimes astonished at the increased costs of lines packed by them by whole-

salers. I predict they will yet have to pay much higher prices.

The condition of retail trade throughout the State continues good. It has been somewhat quiet lately in Brisbane. The continued dry weather, the dust and the frequent westerly winds are doing their share in spreading mild epidemics.

Regulations Under "The Opticians Act 1917."

By-law 56 of these regulations, which were recently gazetted, is causing some fluttering in the dove-cotes of travelling opticians. It prevents certified opticians, or optometrists, as they will henceforth be called, from canvassing from house to house for business, as is frequently done in outlying places, while permitting persons holding a spectacle sellers license, without any knowledge of the subject of optometry, to do so.

According to a deputation which waited on the Home Secretary to ask that this by-law be rescinded, its effect will be to deprive many competent persons of their livelihood while serving no useful purpose. Furthermore it would force people at great inconvenience to patronise the large Brisbane establishments so largely represented on the Board. The Home Secretary advised the deputation to approach the Board; meanwhile he would hear the Board's side, and find out why they framed the regulation.

Stealing Boxes of Pills.

Two boxes of Doan's Backache pills, valued at £2/19/6, were recently stolen from Elliott Bros., Brisbane, in consequence of which an employee, Robert Cunningham, and Thomas Farrelly appeared before the police magistrate on July 12th. They realised £2 3s. on the pills and halved the proceeds. The purchaser's name was not disclosed, but it is rumoured that it was a pharmaceutical chemist. Farrelly appears to have instigated Cunningham to commit the offence. Anyhow, so thought P.M. Mr. W. Harris, who sentenced him to six weeks' imprisonment, while Cunningham was bound over for 12 months, and to make restitution of £1 1s. 6d., his half of the proceeds of the sale.

South Australia.

Pharmacy Board of South Australia.

The Board met at Adelaide on June 20, 1918.

Present.—The President (Mr. E. F. Gryst), and Messrs M. C. Moore, J. W. Snook, W. H. Porter, and H. V. Moore.

Apologies received from Capt. Fox and Mr. A. E. Hustler.

Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed.

Treasurer's Report read and adopted.

Auditors.—Messrs. J. W. Snook and A. E. Hustler were appointed.

Registration of Indentures. — Victoria Florence Hawkins to Mr. M. C. Moore, Mile End; Arthur Charles Kellett to G. H. Watson, Port Pirie.

The Board adjourned.

Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia.

The Council met on June 20th, at Adelaide.

Present.—The President (Mr. W. H. Porter), and Messrs. M. C. Moore, J. W. Snook, E. F. Gryst, and R. E. Guenther.

Apologies received from Capt. Fox and Mr. A. E. Hustler.

Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed.

Treasurer's Report read and adopted.

Returning Officer (Mr. H. V. Moore) reported that there would not be any election for the new Council, as only the required number of nominations had been received.

Annual Meeting.—This was fixed for the third Thursday in July, at the Society's rooms.

Retail Chemists' Defence Association.

The monthly committee meeting of the Retail Chemists' Defence Association of South Australia was held on Thursday, June 13th, 1918.

Present.—The President (Mr. M. C. Moore), and Messrs. R. E. Guenther, W. Patterson, J. W. Snook, W. T. Magarey, H. V. Moore and A. B. Cowling (Secretary)

Apologies were received from Messrs. W. R. Males and P. R. Runge.

"Sonopines" in Demand.—The Secretary reported a heavy demand for the latest "Sonia" proprietary, viz., "Sonopines," a pine lozenge in packets, retailing at 6d. packet.

Meeting of Members.—It was decided to hold the half-yearly meeting in the Pharmaceutical Society's Rooms on Thursday evening, July 11th, at 9.15 p.m., when, it was stated, several matters of importance would be brought forward.

Western Australia.

Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia.

The 275th meeting of the Council was held on June 6th, 1918, at the Perth Technical School.

Present.—Messrs. Sagar (President), George, Howling, Lorman, and Parry. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. Gulley and Tilley.

Chemists' Fees Paid.—W. E. Myer, W. O. Osborne, W. W. Dawson, J. W. Hawkins.

Apprentices.—The indentures of H. W. Illingworth to F. T. Lorman, Perth, were registered.

A.P.F.—The Registrar stated that a letter had been addressed to the Western Australian branch of the B.M.A., re the revision of the A.P.F. The matter was being referred to the next general meeting of the Branch, when suggestions would be invited for revising and amplifying the present formulary.

Examinations.—The reports of the examiners were received, and the following passes were approved:—

Intermediate.—Chemistry.—N. I. Collett; Materia Medica, Botany and Pharmacy—F. B. Hicks.

Preliminary.—Evadne Glover, Barbara Sawell, A. S. Herbert, and G. Laffen.

Eastern Goldfields Association.—A letter of thanks was received for the action taken by the Council, on behalf of the Goldfields chemists, in regard to general dispensing by medical men, and in connection with the Venereal Health Amendment Act.

Complaint Against Chemist.—The Registrar reported that he had thoroughly gone into the matter, and, as a result, had been enabled to write the Commissioner of Police to the effect that the district was well served, considering the difficulties the pharmacist had to contend with.

Certificates of Competency were granted to Messrs. J. Shineberg and E. B. Elliott.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. — A letter was received from the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, stating that they had just received the Council's greetings for 1918, and that the Council heartily reciprocated the wish that "Peace and concord may prevail."

Poisons License Granted.—West Pilbarra Trading Co., Whim Creek.

The meeting adjourned.

Merited Recognition of Mr. E. W. Mayhew.

The following correspondence will be of interest to pharmacists, to whom Mr. Mayhew is well known as one of the leaders of pharmacy in the Commonwealth:—

The Chemical Society of W.A.,
Geological Survey Laboratory.
Perth, 12th June, 1918.

E. W. Mayhew, Esq.,
Registrar, Pharm. Council of W.A.,
Perth.

Dear Sir,—

I have much pleasure in notifying you that at the ordinary meeting of the above Society, held on the 27th May, you were unanimously elected the First Honorary Member of the Society in recognition of your long service to the State in the sphere of Chemistry.

Trusting that you will see your way clear to accept the honour, and hoping to see you at our meetings, notice of which will be posted to you.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) H. Bowley,
Hon. Secretary.

King Edward-street,
South Perth, 14th June, 1918.

H. Bowley, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary,
The Chemical Society of Western Australia.

Dear Sir,—I will be thankful if you will be good enough to express to your members my sincere gratification in the honour conferred upon me, by having been unanimously elected as the First Honorary Member of your Society.

The future advancement of this State, and I may say Australasia generally, in every economic direction, truly depends upon the due application of chemical science, and no one has appreciated this fact more than myself for the past forty years of my residence therein.

I will certainly do my best to attend meetings.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) Edward Mayhew.

Circular to Pharmacists.

Mr. E. Mayhew, Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia, has issued a circular, dated 1st July, to all pharmacists on the register, in which the following paragraphs appear:—

A.P.F.—In view of its revision, early suggestions as to any desirable alteration of present formulas, or the inclusion of others, would be gladly received by the Registrar for the help and information of the Standing Committee in Victoria.

Subscriptions.—In this regard, the Treasurer would thank members to send remittance as near as possible to July 1, as, outside of the greatly increased cost of journals, stationery, etc., an appreciable saving in postage will thereby be effected.

Apprentices.—In order to fall in with the view of employers, arrangements have been made at the Perth Technical School whereby apprentices, during the first year of their apprenticeship, can obtain all necessary tuition in chemistry, materia medica, botany, and pharmacy, upon Wednesday and Thursday evenings of each week.

Prescriptions.—Your attention is drawn to a statement received from the B.M.A. (W.A. Branch) to the effect that, in some instances, pharmacists have retained medical prescriptions in lieu of copying same and handing back to patients. The B.M.A. point out that the prescription is the property of the patient; the detention of which may, in many cases, cause loss and inconvenience to both patient and medical attendant. They request that this practice, where it exists, be discontinued.

Tasmania.

Pharmacy Board of Tasmania.

The monthly meeting of the Board was held at Hobart, on 17th June, 1918.

Present.—Messrs. W. B. Drake (president), M. Rushton, J. T. Weaver, H. T. Gould, T. James, H. Sidwell, and the Registrar.

An apology was received for the absence of Mr. Eberhard.

Certificates of Competency.—Resolved that this subject now be allowed to lapse.

Indentures.—Miss J. M. Bradshaw to A. G. Horner. These were received for registration, together with two certificates, issued by the Education Department. Resolved—That the indentures be registered, upon production of a certificate from the University that she has passed the Junior Public Examination.

Examinations.—Preliminary. Reported the results not yet to hand. Registrar was instructed to notify the president and candidates of the position as soon as he receives the information.

Intermediate.—The report of the Board of Examiners was received and adopted. It was noted that Miss Edwards and Miss Gilmore had both passed, and that J. R. Varian had passed in Botany and Chemistry.

Final.—The report of the Examiners was received and adopted. It was noted that the only candidate, R. S. Stephenson, had passed in all but Pharmacy, which could be taken as a single subject in December next.

New Regulations.—Resolved that the regulations be altered by inserting the following clauses, and, in any other direction which the next meeting of the Board shall decide upon:—

"A candidate for the Intermediate Examination must obtain not less than 50 per cent. of the total marks awarded in each of the three subjects in order to secure a pass. Any candidate obtaining 60 per cent. of the marks in any two subjects, and not less than 40 per cent. in the remaining subject shall be eligible to present himself at any subsequent examination for the subject in which he failed."

"The percentage of marks necessary to secure a pass in the Final Qualifying Examination shall be not less than 50 in each section or sub-section, as the case may be. Any candidate obtaining not less than 60 per cent. of marks in any two sections, and not less than 40 per cent. in the remaining section, shall be eligible to present himself at any subsequent examination in the section in which he has failed. Provided always that the candidate, in order to secure this concession, must pass in practical dispensing."

Supervisor's Fees.—Resolved, that the registrar's fees in connection with each examination conducted in his office be 10s. 6d.

Government Grant. — Reported a deputation waited upon the Chief Secretary on the 12th inst., when he (the Chief Secretary) intimated that he would consider the position carefully, and communicate his decision in due course.

Poisons' Licenses.—It was noted G. E. Harrison's application is still incomplete.

Pharmacy Act.—There was nothing further reported in connection with the alleged breaches of the Act referred to in last minutes.

Pharmaceutical Register.—Three matters were dealt with under this heading.

Finance.—Accounts amounting to £14 7s. were passed for payment.

P. D. L.

Meeting of Directors.

The monthly meeting of the directors was held on Wednesday, June 26.

Present. — The President (Mr. F. Buckhurst), in the chair, and Messrs. Francis, Gulliver, Mewkill, Rankin, and White. An apology for non-attendance was received from Mr. Malyon.

Correspondence inwards and outwards was read and dealt with. A country pharmacist wrote, asking whether a doctor who was doing his own dispensing and selling infants' foods and chemists' sundries would have to register his dispensary under the Shops and Factories Act. A reply was sent, stating that the doctor in question would require to register his dispensary as a "shop," which, under the Factories Act, meant "any place in which goods were exposed or offered for sale by retail."

Post Office Regulations.—A letter was received from the New South Wales Association of Master Pharmacists, bringing under notice the enforcement of a regulation prohibiting certain poisons being transmitted through the post office. It was resolved to take this matter up, and to communicate with the Central Postal Administration, drawing attention to the hardship and inconvenience caused to persons living in remote country districts by the enforcement of the regulation referred to. It was thought that if the onus were placed upon the person posting the poison, to pack it properly, failing which it would not be transmitted, this would meet the case.

Mr. Mewkill mentioned that he had received an official notification to the effect that urgent medicines could be lodged at the post office in his district after 6 p.m. Mr. Rankin said that this practice was not at all uniform, and that considerable delay occurred owing to the fact that some postmasters refused to accept packets containing medicine after 6 p.m. The secretary was instructed to write to the Superintendent of Mails suggesting that it would be an advantage if the practice of receiving medicines after 6 p.m. were made uniform.

A copy of the new regulation regarding the packing of medicines for transmission through the post was laid on the table. In connection with this regulation, it was decided to ask the postal authorities if they would accept a printed label to be placed on packages containing medicine as follows:—"*Medicine*, packed in accordance with the Post and Telegraph Regulations No. 220 (3)." Mr. Rankin said that if this suggestion met with approval, labels could be printed and distributed to pharmacists. It would save a lot of trouble if the department fell in with the proposal.

Legal Matters.—The Secretary reported that a case had been brought under his notice in which a girl aged 17 had died after taking some medicine obtained from a local pharmacist. Notwithstanding that the doctor attending the girl had given a certificate of death from natural causes, the relatives somehow had the idea that the

medicine taken was a contributory cause of her death. They were therefore taking steps to have the medicine analysed. He thought that the directors should know of the case, although it might not come to anything.

Further consideration was given to an important matter affecting pharmacists in another State. A large amount of correspondence on the subject was read. The directors decided to go on with the case, provided sufficient financial guarantees were received to cover the legal expenses.

Financial. — The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. Geo. Francis) submitted the monthly financial statement showing credit balance of £126 17s. 8d. Accounts amounting to £25 15s. 7d. were passed for payment, and the meeting then adjourned.

Transmission of Poisons Through the Post.

DEPUTATION TO MR. J. OXENHAM.

A deputation from the P.D.L., consisting of Messrs. F. Buckhurst (president), G. E. Gulliver (vice-president), and C. L. Butchers (secretary), waited upon Mr. Justinian Oxenham, permanent head of the Central Post Office Administration, on Tuesday, July 2nd, in order to discuss with him the enforcement of the regulation which prohibited the transmission through the post office of "substances which, in small quantities, are deadly poisons."

Mr. Buckhurst said that the object of the deputation was to ask that there should be some relaxation of this regulation, which, in its present form, was too far-reaching. He understood that the Master Pharmacists' Association of New South Wales had made some representations on this subject, and it was with the view of discussing the position that the interview had been asked for. He took it that the post office existed for the convenience of the public. The regulation referred to, if strictly enforced, would cause very great inconvenience. To prevent strychnine, for instance, if properly packed, from going through the post would be the cause of considerable hardship to people in remote country districts. In the case of other poisons, such as morphine and cocaine, these, he thought, should be allowed to be sent by post under certain conditions. The deputation had no desire to question the wisdom of refusing to allow the post office to be used for transmitting corrosive acids and preparations containing phosphorus, but it did think that to include all poisons within the prohibitory clause was extending the principle embodied in the regulation further than was necessary. He explained the various precautions required under the Poisons laws, and asked Mr. Oxenham if he could see his way to do so to modify the regulation in the direction indicated.

Mr. Gulliver said that pharmacists were quite willing to comply with any reasonable requirements as to packing, or any other necessary precaution for the public safety. He thought that poisons included in mixtures, or compounded in accordance with a doctor's prescription, should be exempted. The Poisons Act in all the States provided for certain precautions, which had to be observed by the pharmacists. It appeared that the only point at issue was to ensure the safety of persons engaged in handling mail matter.

Mr. Butchers said that what pharmacists wanted was something more explicit. The present regulation was too far-reaching, and extended to many articles which were not really dangerous to persons handling mail matter. Such poisons as strychnine, cocaine, morphine and arsenic should be allowed to go through the post under certain precautionary conditions. At present, pharmacists hardly knew where they stood, and as a heavy penalty was attached to the breaking of the regulations, the deputation desired to know exactly what the position was.

Mr. Oxenham said that the department's only object was to protect the mails and those handling them from injury. So far as corrosive acids, opium for smoking purposes and phosphorus preparations were concerned, these could not be interfered with. He thought that prussic acid and cyanide of potassium should also be specifically prohibited. The present regulation, he agreed, might be made more explicit. He was inclined to think that poisons, such as strychnine, arsenic, cocaine, morphine, etc., should only be accepted when packed in bottles, and the bottles then placed into boxes made for that purpose. The articles should be labelled "Poison," and be despatched by packet (not parcels) post, and registered. These precautions he deemed to be absolutely necessary. Special boxes could be obtained very cheaply. He had seen them. They were generally made from a piece of wood about an inch in diameter, with a round hole turned in the centre, sufficient to contain the bottle. Registration he deemed to be necessary for the purpose of tracing the persons posting poison. In insisting upon this provision, he was simply adopting the principle embodied in Poisons legislation. He was unable to discriminate between different classes of business people, or to make special provisions which would exempt pharmacists and medical men, although he admitted that if this were possible it would be one way out of the difficulty. In the absence of this power, registration was the only alternative. He had thought of requiring poisons to be sent at letter postage rate, but he thought that registration was preferable to this. He could quite see that pharmacists wished to know their exact legal position, particularly as the penalty for sending prohibited articles through the post office was very heavy. Medicines containing small quantities of poison would not be interfered with so long as they were properly packed. Up to the present, he had not received any communication on the subject from New South Wales. Probably this would come to hand in a day or two. He would look further into the matter, and give the deputation an opportunity later on of perusing the amended regulation.

The deputation, after thanking Mr. Oxenham for his courtesy and consideration, withdrew.

Summary of Proposed New Regulations.

The Secretary of the P.D.L. had a further interview with the Postal authorities on July 6,

when the following summary of the proposed new regulations was submitted:—

1. The present regulation (on top of page 31 of the Postal Guide) prohibiting deadly poisons being sent through the post to be cancelled.

2. Prussic acid, cyanide of potassium, corrosive acids and phosphorus (and all preparations of phosphorus for the destruction of vermin) to be specifically prohibited from transmission through the post.

3. Strychnine (in powder form), arsenic, morphine, and cocaine, may be transmitted by post if the following conditions are complied with:—

(a) The bottle containing the poison shall be enclosed in a wooden case, which shall be made from a solid piece of wood bored out to the size of the bottle, and shall have a secure wooden lid.

(b) The article shall be sent by registered packet post.

(c) The packet shall be labelled "Poison," with the name and address of the seller.

The effect of these regulations will be to allow other poisons, which are not dangerous to those handling the mails, to go through the post provided they are packed in accordance with Regulation No. 220 (3), page 81, of the Postal Guide.

Legal.

Prosecutions at Dunolly.

At the Dunolly (Vic.) Police Court on July 9, before Mr. Cook, P.M., George Turnbull Bell, trading as J. M. Glover and Co., storekeepers, Dunolly, was charged with selling poisoned material for the destruction of vermin known as "S.A.P. Rabbit Poison," containing poison, to wit, an admixture of phosphorus without labelling the vessel containing the same with the name and address of the seller, contrary to the Poisons Act 1915.

Mr W. E. Pearcey appeared to prosecute for the Pharmacy Board.

Defendant did not appear.

Mr. Pearcey said that the poison contained molasses and 1.948 per cent. of yellow phosphorus. The analyst had found free phosphorus in the mixture. Mr. Pearcey produced a tube containing this for the information of the magistrate. Phosphorus was a dangerous poison, and under the War Precautions Act its sale was only permitted under licence. Its transmission through the post was also prohibited.

Geo. E. Bate, inspector, gave formal evidence regarding the purchase of the poison.

A representative of the defendant firm appeared, and pleaded guilty to a technical offence. He stated that the tins were originally labelled as required by the Act.

The magistrate imposed a fine of £1, with £4 19/3 costs.

At the same court, A. and G. Daly and Co. were charged with having sold a poison, to wit, strychnine, in an admixture known as Fellow's Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites, contrary to the Poisons Act 1915.

Defendants pleaded guilty. Formal evidence of the purchase was given and the analyst's certificate, showing that the contents of the bottle contained approximately two-thirds of a grain of strychnine was put in by Mr. Pearcey, who appeared for the informant, the Registrar of the Pharmacy Board.

A fine of £2, with £4/19/3 costs, was imposed.

Grocer Fined for Selling Phenyle.

Before Mr. Moore, P.M., at the South Melbourne Court on June 20, J. H. Taylor, grocer, 241 Clarendon-st., was charged, on the information of C. L. Butchers, Registrar of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, with having illegally sold a poison, to wit, a liquid preparation of carbolic acid or its homologues containing more than 3 per cent. of these substances, known as phenyle.

Mr. W. E. Pearcey appeared for the informant.

Defendant, who was not represented, pleaded guilty.

Mr. Pearcey said the defendant, who was a grocer, had sold phenyle containing 12.12 per cent. of phenolic compounds to the Board's inspector in a dry ginger ale bottle. Defendant put no label on the bottle at all. The Poisons Act was passed for the protection and safety of the public. So that the public might not be inconvenienced, a special schedule was provided which allowed grocers to sell phenyle, so long as it did not contain more than 3 per cent. of phenolic compounds. But even when phenyle contained only 3 per cent. of phenolic compounds, it had to be properly labelled and sold in a regulation poison bottle. The offence was a very reprehensible one, and the practice of putting phenyle into ginger ale bottles was distinctly dangerous.

George E. Bate, Inspector employed by the Board, said that he visited defendant's shop on June 6, and asked for 6d. worth of phenyle. Defendant pumped the phenyle out of a kerosene tin into the bottle produced. He did not affix any label on the bottle. Witness marked the container for identification, and took it to the Government Analyst (Mr. Price) for analysis.

Charles Leslie Butchers, Registrar of the Pharmacy Board, produced the Registers to show that defendant was not entitled to sell poisons. He also produced a certificate from the Government Analyst to the effect that the contents of the bottle contained 12.12 per cent. of phenolic compounds.

Mr. Moore, P.M., said that defendant would be fined £2, with £3 5s. costs. He intimated that the bench intended to adhere to this penalty if there were any further similar cases.

Dispensary Manager Fined—Chlorodyne Not Properly Labelled.

At Eaglehawk, on July 5th, before Mr. Cook, P.M., Mr. Cohen appeared for the informant, and Mr. Luke Murphy defended.

Mr. Cohen, in briefly outlining the case, explained that the outside wrapper of the bottle of

chlorodyne should have been taken off and name of the seller and address put on the bottle. This prosecution was also launched with a view to having the state of things existing at the dispensary corrected, and stopping an infringement of the Act. The omission of the seller's name and address might have serious results, as in the case of crime the police would not be able to trace the sale. Mr. Linton was a registered pharmacist, and was required to know the law regarding the sale of poisons.

Constable Hellens said he went to the dispensary on March 30. Defendant was serving, and he purchased a bottle of chlorodyne for 2s. 9d. There was no name of the dispensary or Mr. Linton's name on the outside wrapper or on the bottle.

Constable Thomson said he interviewed Mr. Linton on April 2 in the presence of Mr. J. Trevean (secretary). The purchase book on the counter contained no record of the sale, but defendant said he would not dispute it. Replying to Mr. Murphy, witness said he did not warn the defendant.

Arthur Ernest Sayer, qualified chemist, carrying on business in Bendigo, and a member of the Pharmacy Board, was called to give evidence. He said the law required that the outside wrapper should be taken off and the name of the seller and address be placed on the bottle. Chlorodyne was not a patent but a proprietary medicine.

Mr. Murphy objected to the evidence.

Mr. Cohen argued that he was entitled to prove to the court what was necessary to comply with the law. He did not press the point.

Mr. Murphy said it was admitted that Mr. Linton was not the seller, but only acted as agent for the seller. He could find no authority that allowed the dispensary to place the name on the bottle as the seller of the poison. The Poisons Act did not provide for the case. The chlorodyne was sold under the heading of patent medicines, and Mr. Linton thought it would still come within that meaning. (Even if chlorodyne was a patent medicine, it would still require to be labelled with the name and address of the seller. —Ed., A.J.P.) Mr. Linton had been trapped. The prosecution could have been prevented if Mr. Linton had been warned. There were no merits in the case. It was only a technical matter.

Mr. Cohen said the only desire of the prosecution was that the dispensary should comply with the provisions of the Act.

After further argument a fine of £2 was imposed, with £2 9s. 3d. costs.

Eaglehawk U.F.S. Dispensary—Prosecution Under Poisons Act.

The Eaglehawk Police Court presented an animated appearance on Friday morning, July 5th, when the clerk of courts called the names of seventeen defendants, against whom a charge under the Poisons Act had been listed.

Mr. A. M. Cook, P.M., occupied the Bench, Mr. F. S. Colen, of Messrs. Cohen, Kirby & Co., solicitors, Bendigo, appeared for Constable Hellens, the informant, and Mr. Luke Murphy attended as advocate for the defendants. The defendants, who were cited as the board of management of the Eaglehawk Friendly Societies' Dispensary, were John Trevena, Walter Collier, Joseph Meggs, John Trevean, Mathew Thornton, Thomas Norton, Henry Hansen, James Pearce, William James, Frank Ryan, Archibald Kelly, W. John James, Richard Eyre, Norman Richards, Joseph Perrow, David Stanley Owen and William B. Blainey. The offence with which they were charged was "that on 16th day of February, 1918, they did sell by retail hydrochloric acid (a liquid) in a quantity not exceeding two quarts, and deliver the same to a person (to wit the informant), in a bottle not rendered distinguishable by touch from an ordinary bottle."

Mr. Murphy suggested at the outset that one person should be selected from among those called in the information.

Mr. Cohen: Do I take it that the defendants are pleading guilty?

The P.M. said the case could go on as against all the defendants named in the information.

In opening the case for the prosecution Mr. Cohen quoted from the Poisons Act, section 20, sub-section 2a, sub-section B., section 4 (penalty), also sections 3 and 25. Referring to the rules of the dispensary he said that the dispenser was to be appointed by the board, his duties and salary to be absolutely under their control. Adverting to the certificate of the analyst, Mr. J. R. V. Anderson, attached to the information, Mr. Cohen said that it would be shown that the hydrochloric acid (spirits of salts) referred to therein had been supplied by the dispenser in a bottle which had been handed to him. This bottle was not distinguishable by touch from an ordinary bottle, as required by the Act when poison was sold, and bore the label "Warner's Safe Cure." The attention of the constable had been drawn by the dispenser to the fact that the liquid would eat through the cork. The effect of this would be to cover the label with acid. Under the law the board of management of the dispensary was responsible for the sale. Under the Poisons Act the actual seller was the person on whose behalf the sale was made.

The proceedings were instituted to endeavour to correct the free and easy way the dispensary was conducted.

Constable Hellens gave evidence that he went to the dispensary on February 16th and purchased four bottles of medicine from Mr. Linton, including the hydrochloride, or spirits of salts, as it was generally known. He handed Mr. Linton a bottle, and containing the spirits of salts it was delivered back to him. Mr. Linton warned him not to turn it upside down as there was a leak in the cork. The bottle was stamped "Warner's Safe Cure" on the back, and was not distinguishable by touch. There was about one-third of a pint of liquid in the bottle.

In reply to Mr. Murphy, witness said it was not a bona fide purchase for his own use. He purchased the hydrochloride as instructed, and knew the bottle was not the right kind to put it in.

Constable Thomson gave evidence regarding the personnel of the board of management, and

replying to Mr. Murphy, said he was aware of Constable Hellens' visit. He took no steps to warn the board of management, the secretary, or the dispenser, regarding such a breach.

Mr. Murphy, addressing Mr. Cook, on behalf of the defendants, said that looking at all the circumstances defendants were guilty of the technical offence of which they were charged. The institute was founded on the Friendly Societies' Act 1915, which had for its object the amelioration of the wants of the working man, also to assist widows and orphans, and to encourage thrift. The gentlemen constituting the board of management had no personal interest in the institute beyond the fact that they were doing their duty in the spirit of the Act. They were entitled to a certain amount of public commendation. These men had practically carried on the institute in the public interests. The board was entitled to employ a pharmaceutist. Mr. Linton was a registered chemist, and the board looked to him to carry out the Act. Defendants could do nothing more, and were charged with an offence of which they had not the slightest knowledge. They thought everything was going on in conformity with the law. The first thing they heard was that Constable Hellens invited an offence to be committed. The dispenser was practically led into a trap, though he should have known better. If the police beforehand had notified the board, no doubt every precaution would have been taken to see that the Act was carried out. Certainly they had broken the law, but the action was against the spirit of British fair play. He asked the P.M. to take into consideration the fact that the men were performing a public duty gratuitously, and if a note of warning had been sounded no serious result would have eventuated from it. It had, however, given satisfaction to Mr. McGibbony, pharmacist of Eaglehawk, and Mr. Sayer, a Bendigo pharmacist.

Mr. Cohen objected to the suggestion, and pointed out that Mr. Sayer was present as a member of the Pharmacy Board, and had been subpoened to give evidence in the case against the dispenser.

Mr. Murphy reiterated that if the board had been notified the present proceedings would have been stopped. Up till recently spirits of salts could have been purchased in a tinsmith's shop. He suggested that the charges against the men, with the exception of one, should be withdrawn.

Mr. Cook replied that in any case there would only be one conviction.

Mr. Murphy agreed that the ends of justice would be met in that respect.

Mr. Cook said the Poisons Act had been brought in to regulate the sale of poisons, and in the interests of the public the Act should be strictly enforced. In the present case the greatest defaulter was the servant the board of management employed, although they were the responsible people if he committed a breach. The evidence showed there was carelessness in dealing with the poison.

Mr. Cohen said he could not withdraw any of the charges because it was a board of management.

The P.M. said there could only be one conviction.

Mr. Cohen again suggested that the fine be made collectively or against the board of management.

Mr. Cook disagreed and imposed a fine of £1 on John Trevena, the President, who undertook to have the conviction recorded against him. Costs, amounting to £5 18s., were allowed.

Mr. Cohen again pressed his contention, and asked the P.M. whether he found against only one defendant.

Mr. Cook: One offence, one penalty. You were quite open to take out a summons against him.

Mr. Cohen: You will note my objection; perhaps it might go further. Do I take it that in view of the other defendants pleading guilty you will only fine one?

Mr. Cook: Yes. It is the general practice to withdraw the other cases.

Mr. Cohen: I am not withdrawing.

Mr. Cook: The case against the other defendants has been struck out.

Correspondence.

Letters submitted for publication must be addressed to the Editor, and should reach the Office not later than the 16th of the month. They should be written clearly and concisely, on one side of the paper only, and must be authenticated in each case by the name and address of the writer. The views expressed by correspondents are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor.

To the Editor of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.*

"The Smallest Man in the British Army."

Sir,—I was glad to see Private F. C. Wittman honoured in the June number of the Pharmacy Journal. We have always been proud of him, for he spent a year at the Austral Coaching College before presenting himself for the Pharmacy Preliminary, and we do not feel inclined to pass over that honour to Wesley, which, out of the richness of its treasure of heroes, can easily spare us some credit in the formation of this one.

No difficulty ever stopped him. I remember yet how he struggled with the Latin grammar, and little thought, when he was puzzling out Caesar's campaign against Ariovistus and the Germans, that he would himself take an active part against them. The grit and determination he showed then are characteristics of him in every way.—Yours, etc.,

Melbourne, F. Thomas, M.A.
26th June, 1918.

To the Editor of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.*

Mr. Simmonds' Reply to Mr. Davies.

Sir,—There was one point I wished to make when writing in answer to Mr. Davies, but which

I evidently overlooked. It was, that a knowledge of the subject of "Pharmacy" being of more value to the ordinary pharmacist than even Chemistry, Materia Medica, or Botany, it might be advisable to make the College tuition in Pharmacy more thorough. Mr. Davies says a College of Pharmacy is not a suitable place to acquire the art of Practical Pharmacy. I contend that the College of Pharmacy exists not to teach the whole art and mystery of a chemist and druggist, but to put on the finishing touches —in other words, to supply the teaching the apprentice has been unable to acquire in the pharmacy. And perhaps it is because I realise that this is an age of machine-made plasters, etc., that I say this subject should have more prominence in the college work. It is all very well saying these things should be learnt during apprenticeship (and I think it would be better if the apprentice did not require to go to the College at all); but this does not make me blind to the fact that in the vast majority of cases the College course is necessary to make up for deficient knowledge.

Mr. Davies' remarks about taking a horse to drink applies with as much force to the relationship of master and apprentice as it does to tutor and student, but the master should not be blamed for having a lazy apprentice any more than the tutor should. Mr. Davies will also, from his knowledge of boys, bear me out when I say that in many cases it is impossible to get them to see that it is to their own interest to learn all they can during apprenticeship, and not leave everything to the last. If a College of Pharmacy takes fees for teaching all subjects, then all the subjects should have equally thorough treatment.

As to whether the Director of the College is physically able to efficiently fill the several important positions he holds, remains for time to prove. But it would be a great pity if, in trying to keep so many things going, the work we all know to be his specialty should suffer.

Whether the Director receives enough for his services as Director, does not affect the question of the desirability of one man having the control of every office in connection with the College, Board, and Society. It does not often happen that professional and administrative abilities are prominent in the same person. As, however, the Director of the College has been appointed to the several offices referred to, it is unnecessary now to say anything more on this point.—Yours, etc.,

FRED. W. SIMMONDS.

To the Editor of *The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.*

The Title of "Chemist."

Sir,—Having carefully perused the reports of the late conference held in Melbourne, with members of the Australian Chemical Institute, in reference to proposed Federal legislation, and specially the title of "Chemist," and being seized with the immense importance to all qualified persons of the issues involved therein, may I be permitted to make the following remarks thereon:—

One effect of the war has been to decidedly accentuate the necessity for "Chemists" throughout the Commonwealth and elsewhere considering their relations with one another, and, in justice to both the public and themselves, to settle now and for all time the question: "Who shall be allowed to call themselves 'Chemists'?"

Seeing that the Institute is a Federal body, it would appear to me that the desired object can be attained, if the proposed legislative measure clearly and definitely sets forth that "no person in the Commonwealth of Australia, or its dependencies, shall use or assume the title of chemist without being duly registered by the Institute," the particular adjective applicable to that particular branch of chemical science followed by an admittee, to be determined by the rules and regulations of the Institute. In the case of pharmaceutical chemists duly registered in any State of the Commonwealth, that under the proposed enactment they be recognised, and shall be registered by the Institute as "Pharmaceutical Chemists," and thereby solely retaining their own special rights and privileges in the practice of pharmacy, including the sale of poisons and the dispensing of doctors' prescriptions, as conferred upon them under the Pharmacy or Poisons Acts of the different States. Mr. J. Rutherford Hill says, in his memorandum on the title "Chemist:" "Neither the word 'Druggist' nor the word 'Pharmacist' adequately describes a person entitled to carry on the business subject to the restrictions of the 'Pharmacy and Poisons Act.' His business includes the retail vending of substances used for scientific, technical and domestic purposes; he is certified to possess a competent practical knowledge of general chemistry, and is, as a simple matter of fact, a *chemist,* as well as a pharmacist."

Regarding *registration,* there can be no doubt that a legal obligation of this nature, upon the part of all "Chemists" would be of decided advantage to the general public in every direction, outside of the fact that the qualified chemist would obtain that proper recognition in status, which, at the present day, is justly demanded and obtained by any skilled mechanic. At the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Chemistry (London), held on March 1st, the retiring President, Sir J. Dobbie, referred, *inter alia,* to the immense importance of the services rendered by chemists to the Empire during the past four years, in connection with the war, and stated that the attention of the Council had been very largely devoted to a revision of the regulations, with a view of constituting the Institute the representative body of all properly qualified professional chemists, and that it should

undertake to maintain a register for others who were engaged in chemistry, but were not necessarily qualified for admission to the Institute as members. Such organisation, he said, would make it possible, when occasion demanded, for the chemists of the country to bring their whole weight and influence to bear on questions of national interest.

In regard to full membership of the Institute, if desired by any pharmaceutical chemist, I think that, viewing present-day requirements in pharmaceutical training by the various Boards, on the chemical side, there should be no insuperable difficulty in coming to some arrangement with the Institute regarding a fair and reasonable recognition for work done, during the pharmaceutical curriculum.

In conclusion, it has to be regretted that, up to date, but few people seem to have realised the full extent of our dependence upon the application of chemistry, and that every industry in the Empire, in some measure, is dependent upon it, and, further, that the true welfare of the country is bound up in the future success of these industries. Finally, I trust that the whole matter will be brought to a successful issue in the near future, and more especially so, as, from all I can glean, the times are favourable for taking action.—Yours, etc.,

EDWARD MAYHEW, M.S.C.I.

Technical School, Perth,
July 1st, 1918.

To the Editor of *The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.*

Earlier Closing.

Sir,—The letters in your recent issues relevant to "earlier closing" have greatly interested me, so with your kind permission I would like to say a little.

The amount of business done between the hours of six and eight o'clock p.m. is undoubtedly large (particularly does this apply to suburban businesses), and if Chemists were deprived of it, it would certainly be disastrous. But would they be deprived of it? They surely all would not lose business. "One man's gain is another man's loss" is a saying which cuts both ways, and I think we would all gain, and all lose, some business; in other words, things would balance themselves, the only difference being that the usual amount of business would be done in less hours.

Is earlier closing feasible? I think it is. There would probably be a little inconvenience at first, as no reduction, however small, of our trading hours, has been brought about without it.

Even to-day we occasionally find people who are ignorant of our present hours of closing. Every shortening of our hours has brought out opposition, which experience has shown was not well founded. As for the "urgent prescription bogey," what are their hours? or, rather, why close at all?—Yours for daylight work,

A. B. W. AUMONT.

332 Smith-st., Collingwood, 10/7/18.

Venereal Diseases.

Circular to Pharmacists.

The Under Secretary for Queensland has issued a circular setting out the provisions of the Health Act in regard to the treatment of venereal diseases. Under this Act, a pharmacist is not permitted to attend upon or treat any person suffering from venereal disease, and can only sell any proprietary medicine or drug to any person so suffering under permit from the Commissioner of Public Health. This permit is only granted in cases where a medical practitioner is not available. A list of drugs which are not to be sold except on a doctor's order is appended. This list closely follows the Victorian regulations. The circular concludes: — "The Minister directs me to say that he feels sure that he can rely upon the whole-hearted co-operation of chemists in the administration of the venereal provisions of the Health Acts, and that you will assist by directing persons suffering from venereal disease to consult a medical practitioner, or, if such person is without means to pay medical fees, to attend at the hospital or clinics."

Wages Boards.

VICTORIA.

When the final proof of the Chemists' Shops' Board determination was submitted for ratification, the clauses providing for a ten per cent. reduction in the case of female apprentices and improvers was struck out. This differentiation, therefore, only now applies to registered assistants and others over 21 years of age. The schedule of wages, therefore, is as follows:—

APPRENTICES.

WAGES.
Per week of 51 hours.

	s.	d.
1st year	10	0
2nd ,, ...	15	0
3rd ,, ...	20	0
4th ,, ...	25	0

PROPORTION.
(In any shop or place.)
One apprentice to each worker receiving not less than the minimum wage.

IMPROVERS.

WAGES.
Per week of 51 hours.

	s.	d.
17 years or under ...	30	0
18 ,, ...	35	0
19 ,, ...	40	0
20 ,, ...	45	0

PROPORTION.
(In any shop or place.)
One improver to the first ten or fraction of ten, and thereafter one additional improver to each additional ten workers receiving not less than the minimum wage.

OTHER EMPLOYEES.

MALES' WAGES.
Per week of 51 hours.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Manager ...	5	0	0	4	10	0
Reg. asst.—						
21 years ...	3	0	0	2	14	0
22 ,, ...	3	5	0	2	18	6
23 ,, ...	3	10	0	3	3	0
24 ,, ...	3	15	0	3	7	6
25 ,, or over	4	10	0	4	1	0

FEMALES' WAGES.
Per week of 51 hours.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
All others—						
21 years ...	2	10	0	2	5	0
22 ,, ...	2	15	0	2	9	6
23 ,, ...	3	0	0	2	14	0
24 ,, ...	3	5	0	2	18	6
25 ,, or over ...	3	12	6	3	5	3

The award does not apply to those towns which are not specifically mentioned in the determination. As at present determined, the only places affected are the metropolitan district, Bal-

larat, Bendigo, Geelong, Warrnambool, Ballarat East, Eaglehawk, Geelong West, Newtown, Chilwell, and Sebastopol.

Inspectors from the Factories' Department have been visiting pharmacists during the month in order to explain the various provisions of the Award.

War Notes.

Major Cossar's Trip to England.

The Melbourne *Age* on July 11, under the heading of "Drug Supplies for Australia," says:—"The defence authorities, with an eye to the future, arranged some little time ago for Major D. A. Cossar, staff officer of the military pharmaceutical services, to visit Europe and America, and to report as to the future supply of drugs and medical and surgical stores. Major Cossar returned to Melbourne a few weeks ago, and his report is about to be placed before the defence board of business administration. The Assistant Minister of Defence (Mr. Wise), referring yesterday to the work accomplished by Major Cossar, mentioned that while in England his services had been utilised by the A.I.F. authorities, and in consequence important improvements had been effected in regard to the pharmaceutical services in the direction of introducing economical methods of transporting supplies in bulk, and in the manufacture at depots of all simple preparations. Reorganisation had also been effected in the supply of medical and surgical stores to A.I.F. units in England, all of which would in future be drawn from the base depot of medical stores, which had been removed from Tidworth to newer and larger premises in the vicinity of A.I.F. head quarters, London."

Signaller Eric Elliott Lloyd.

This promising young soldier is the only son of Mr. Frank Lloyd, the well-known Redfern pharmacist. He was born in Redfern (N.S.W.), and educated at the Redfern Superior Public School in Cleveland-street. He entered the service of the Pacific Cable Company, and there received training which proved invaluable to him later on when he enlisted. Mr. Lloyd was not keen on letting his son enlist at the age of 18 or soon after, but the lad's heart was set on going, and his father could not withhold his consent any longer. Young Lloyd enlisted in July, 1916, and entered the training school for signallers at Kiama. He was soon advanced to the rank of corporal, and sailed for England in January, 1917, with the 7th Reinforcement of the 35th Battalion. He was then promoted to the rank of sergeant, and, subsequently, owing to his proficiency as a signaller, was transferred from the 35th to the 33rd Battalion, with the rank of signaller instructor, and sent on active service to the Belgian front. Here he was "gassed," and, consequently, was sent in April last to the Norfolk War Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich. The latest news is that he is making a good recovery, and hopes soon to be back at the front.

Letter from India.

Staff-Sgt. W. L. Johnson, Ph.C., Victoria, writing to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia from India, on May 7, says:—"I was just going to post this letter when the mail came in and I received a letter from you, also a copy of the "Journal of Pharmacy." I noticed in the journal an article on "Modern Methods of Treatment of Gonorrhoea." It may interest you to know the native method of cure: 10 grs. of crude alum three times a day. The assistant surgeons here have told me that they have seen some splendid results from the treatment among the natives, especially in primary stages. The natives have some quaint but effective methods of curing diseases, and are greatly assisted by their knowledge of the medicinal powers of the numerous trees that grow in India. The knowledge has been handed down from generation to generation, but, strangely enough, many of the important uses die out, because the possessor of the knowledge has not thought fit to pass the knowledge on. One jealously-guarded herbal remedy is that by which they can reduce an abnormal growth by an internal remedy. All varieties of trees grow about. In the compound here are Mango, Neem, Tamarinds, Bael, Cassia, Loofah, Croton, Betel, Ispaghula and numerous others. The latter Ispaghula, combined with P. Anisi, is very much used in diarrhoea, and I have seen some marvellous recoveries by that treatment alone. One man, who was cured, was having from 18 to 20 stools a day. Well, I must close now, Mr. Butchers, and many thanks for your letter and the journal. With kind regards to Captain Williams and yourself."

[An interesting and appropriate article on "Pharmacy in India" is published in this issue under "Abstracts."—Ed., "A.J.P."]

Personal.

Harold McIntosh Ogg, son of Mr. A. L. Ogg, pharmacist, South Yarra, enlisted for service with the A.I.F. on June 27.

Sergeant Eric Danker, A.A.M.C., son of Mr. W. F. Danker, pharmacist, Perth (W.A.), is reported in a recent casualty list as having been killed in action.

Corporal W. S. Rankin, son of Mr. D. Rankin, pharmacist, Elsternwick, has been wounded in the thigh, and is at present in a military hospital in England

Private Cyril Richardson, A.I.F., eldest son of Mr. Wm. Richardson, pharmacist, William Street, Perth (W.A.), formerly of Frankston (Victoria), has been killed in action.

Gunner Jack Mayhew, son of Mr. E. W. Mayhew, Perth, who is in a howitzer brigade, has been recommended for a commission, and has proceeded to the Officers' Training College, St. John's Wood, London.

Mr. Geo. J. Sanderson, age 31, described as a chemist and optician, Mildura, enlisted in the A.I.F., at Melbourne, during the month.

One of his brothers was killed in action at Armentieres, and the other has been invalided home wounded.

Mr. K H. Garrick, who was discharged after 1059 days active service as Sergeant-Major of the 24th Battalion, 6th Infantry Brigade, has been appointed to the Instructional Staff at Broadmeadows, with the rank of Staff Sergeant-Major. He commenced his duties on the 18th inst.

John Morris McInerney, who served his apprenticeship to Mr. Henry Glover, Mt. Gambier, S.A., has been killed in action in France. Mr. McInerney attended lectures at the Melbourne College of Pharmacy in 1909, passed his Intermediate Examination in June, 1910, and his Final Examination a year later. He then returned to Mt. Gambier, and accepted an appointment as dispenser at the local hospital. He was a great favourite with the College students, and those who knew him will greatly regret his death.

Corporal Edgeworth W. Kernot, eldest son of Mr. W. E. Kernot, of Sydney, late of Stawell (Vic.), was killed in action in France on April 30th, 1918. He was a Wesley College boy, and during his school career won a number of prizes for prowess as an athlete. The headmaster of the College (Mr. L. A. Adamson) wrote to the boy's father in high praise of young Kernot's manliness. Messages of sympathy were also received from the Mayor and Councillors of Stawell, the vestry of the Stawell Church of England, and others.

The Pharmacy Department of the Australian Army Medical Corps.

The Australian Pharmacy Department of the A.M.C. (writes Mr. G. E. Gibbard, Editor of the *Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal*) is the first independent pharmacy department organised in any Army of any State in the British Empire, or even any Anglo-Saxon country, and although in operation barely two years, has "made good" so effectively that its influence is expected to produce a reform in the armies of the entire Empire.

The organisation is simple and effective, including in its operations both the home and overseas forces.

The members of the pharmacy corps are exclusively qualified pharmacists, enlisted under conditions similar to those which prevail with the other units of the A.M.C., physicians, dentists and veterinaries. The officers are:—

Senior Major, who ranks as staff officer of Pharmacy Service on the staff of the Director-General of the A.M.C. This position is now held by Major Cossar, who was first appointed Hon. Captain, promoted to Hon. Major, and again to full ranking Major.

Next in rank is Captain. The chief senior pharmacy officer of each State.

Lieutenants are qualified pharmacists, head dispensers in general hospitals, base hospitals, and forward casualty stations.

Staff-Sergeant is the lowest rank of any member of the unit, and is held by all assistant dispensers, and men in charge of medical stores.

Senior Major, the officer commanding is responsible for all medical supplies and through him all recommendations for purchases must be made.

Captain, as chief senior officer of the State, has charge and supervision of all medical stores and supplies for his State.

Lieutenant has charge of medical supplies of hospitals, casualty stations and is chief dispenser for such institutions.

Staff-Sergeant is assistant dispenser under command of the Lieutenant and A.M.C. Quartermaster.

All officers in the pharmacy department must be regularly qualified pharmacists, and draw pay according to rank, as in all other units.

In addition to the above outline, the department manufactures all galenicals required for the Service, such as tinctures, elixirs, ointments, liquors, etc. As non-taxed alcohol is used, the saving to the Government is very considerable.

Trade & Commerce.

Price-Fixing Orders.

SHELLAC.

An official order was issued on June 15th, fixing maximum prices for shellac on the basis of those ruling on Monday, June 17.

ARSENIC.

From July 1st official prices for arsenic were fixed as follow:—To wholesalers: In containers exceeding 1 cwt., £60 per ton; 1 cwt. or less, £63 per ton. To all buyers other than wholesalers: £66 per ton and £69 6s. per ton respectively. When sold in packages containing less than 50 lb., the abovementioned prices, plus 20 per cent.

STRYCHNINE.

Government stocks of strychnine in Victoria are falling very low, and it is expected that unless further supplies arrive shortly, poisoning on Crown lands by this method will have to be abated. About six months ago, the Lands Department cabled to the Agent-General for 5000 oz. of strychnine. A reply was received stating that it was hoped to ship 1000 oz., and that an endeavour would be made to forward the balance as collected. This parcel arrived on July 10, but is all required for poisoning vermin on Crown lands.

METHYLATED SPIRITS.

Quite a number of pharmacists appear to be under the impression that the price of methylated spirits has been fixed by regulation. In

one case, a prominent pharmacist was informed by the Secretary of a local association that his name had been sent in for selling this article at less than 6d. per pint, the fixed price. On referring the matter to the Chief Prices Commissioner, on July 10, we were informed that neither the wholesale nor the retail price of methylated spirits had been fixed by regulation. It is probable that the rumour was occasioned by the efforts of the controllers of the supply of methylated spirits to maintain a uniform price for the article.

Bayer Company Seized.

According to the *Bulletin of Pharmacy* for May, 1918, the United States Government has taken over control of the Bayer Company (Incorporated), under the Enemy Alien Act. It is stated that five of the directors were German subjects, and that the majority of the stock was held by aliens. The property rights of the company are estimated to be worth 10,000,000 dollars. Now that the Government has assumed control, a settlement of the "Aspirin" question may be looked for. Whether it will be in the direction of allowing the unrestricted use of the name "Aspirin" remains to be seen. Prior to the change in the control of the company, extensive threats of litigation for alleged infringement of the "Aspirin" trade mark were being made. Doubtless these will now be dropped.

Power Alcohol—Recommendation by the Bureau of Science.

The special committee of the Bureau of Science and Industry, which is inquiring into alcohol fuel and engines, has resolved that it is imperative that the supply of industrial alcohol should be largely and immediately increased. The only way that the committee sees whereby this can be done immediately is by diverting a portion of the distilling plant now used for making potable spirit to the manufacture of industrial alcohol.

The committee has already recommended to the government—

1. That in order to develop the use of alcohol for power purposes and to encourage the production of the raw material upon which the manfacture of power alcohol depends, the necessary action be taken to allow of the manufacture and use in Australia of "power alcohol," denatured with 2 per cent. of either—(a) those fractions of coal tar distillates which are obtained at a temperature of from 170 deg. C. to 230 deg. C.; or (b) creosote oil, i.e., such coal tar oil distillates as are specified above after they have been deprived of their tar acid contents.

2. That an allowance at the rate of 3d. per gallon be granted by the Commonwealth Government on "power alcohol" denatured in the above manner and manufactured in Australia from raw materials produced in Australia, by way of reimbursement of the extra cost caused by fiscal restrictions on the manufacture of alcohol.

3. That a bonus, also at the rate of 3d. per gallon, be granted by the Commonwealth Government on such "power alcohol" in order to encourage its manufacture and to develop the primary industries on which the supply of the necessary raw material depends.

So far the government has taken no action.—*Chemical Engineering and Mining Review.*

Rapid Growth.

A reader asked some time ago whether it was a fact that Indian bamboo could grow 2½ft. in 24 hours. "When living in Queensland," writes M. McGregor (Arthur's Creek), "we had several clumps of bamboo, and the young shoots frequently grew 3ft. or more in 24 hours. Both Japanese and Chinese were very fond of these young shoots when boiled. One had to be very careful how one handled them, as they are protected with sheaths, which are covered with tiny hairs, and if these get into the skin they irritate and inflame it. In the same locality a record growth for a passion vine was noted—6ft. in a week. Pumpkin vines in the rainy season simply raced along."—*Argus*, July 16.

Personal & Business.

Properly authenticated paragraphs, preferably sent by the persons interested, are inserted under this heading.

VICTORIA.

Mr. J. McKay is relieving at the Oakleigh Dispensary.

Mr. S. Brumwell has gone to Mr. G. F. Bartleman, Fitzroy.

Mr. H. J. Murray has been relieving Mr. V. Lalor, of Daylesford.

Mr. David Anderson is relieving Mr. R. Chessman, of Beaufort.

Mr. E. Charles has been relieving Mr. A. F. W. Vale, of Kensington.

Mr. A. McNeel has accepted a position at the Cheltenham Dispensary.

Mr. Tyler has bought the business of Mr. F. J. Bennell, Brunswick-street, Fitzroy.

Mr. R. J. Rocke has just finished relieving Mr. W. Long, Footscray, after 11 weeks.

Mr. J. B. Barker is acting as temporary manager at Gladwin's Pharmacy, Wonthaggi.

Mr. J. Davey has accepted a position with Captain B. P. Dartnell, of South Melbourne.

Mr. A. W. Dawson, of 16 O'Connell Street, Sydney, spent a fortnight in Melbourne during July.

Mr. W. S. Dyer, of Malvern Road, Toorak, is opening a branch pharmacy in Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick.

Mr. F. A. Muller, who has been five years with Mr. J. H. Goode, of Moonee Ponds, has gone to Mr. W. Long, Footscray.

Mr. B. G. Lewis, late of Middle Brighton, has purchased the business of the late Mr. C. L. Bourdic, opposite the Spencer Street railway station.

Mr. Thomas H. Ryan, after being associated for many years with Mr. E. Lenthal Fisher, Elizabeth-street, Melbourne, has joined him in partnership. The business will still be carried on under the title of Fisher's Pharmacy.

Mary Ann Clemes, of Stawell, widow of the late Mr. A. B. Clemes, pharmacist, who died on June 11, left by will dated May 31, 1909, real estate valued at £253 and personal property valued at £4728, to children, relatives, and friends.

Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt and Co. would be glad to know the whereabouts of Mr. M. F. Nugent, formerly of Elmore, as they have a great amount of unclaimed correspondence. They would also welcome inquiries re apprentices.

Mr. Harold O. Wiles, managing director of H. O. Wiles Ltd., importers of heavy chemicals, etc., Auckland, N.Z., has been on a business visit to Australia. Mr. Wiles is a registered pharmacist, and at one time conducted three retail pharmacies in Auckland and suburbs. Whilst in Melbourne, he looked over the College of Pharmacy. He expressed himself as being impressed with the enterprise shown in pharmaceutical circles, particularly in regard to educational and military matters.

Mr. Walter C. Kernot has retired from the Committee of the Geelong Hospital after nineteen years' continuous service, during which time he occupied the positions of Chairman of the House Committee, Vice-President, and member of the Finance Committee. On one occasion, during his term of office, a contested election took place, when Mr. Kernot had the satisfaction of heading the poll. When it was learned that Mr. Kernot intended to retire, the President and the Chairman of the House Committee were deputed to wait upon him, with a request that he might withdraw his resignation. Mr. Kernot expressed regret at not being able to meet his colleagues' wishes, as he had found it necessary, for various reasons, to give up some of his public duties.

Major D. A. Cossar, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, was entertained at lunch at the Cafe Francais, Melbourne, on Wednesday, July 3, by the members of the Council and Messrs. Towl, Buckhurst, Gulliver, Fisher and Butchers. The Vice-president of the Council (Mr. H. B. Taylor) occupied the chair, and after the toast of "The King" had been honoured, proposed Major Cossar's health. Mr. Taylor's remarks were supplemented by Mr. Towl, after which Major Cossar responded, giving an interesting account of some of his experiences in France and Italy. In the course of his reply, Major Cossar alluded to the leaders of pharmacy he had met whilst in London, particularly mentioning the names of Mr. Edmund White, B.Sc., President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Mr. Neathercoat, the Vice-president, and Mr. W. J. Woolcock, the late Secretary. These gentlemen had made great sacrifices, both of time and money, to forward the interests of pharmacy, and it was an inspiration to have been privileged to come into personal contact with them. So far as military pharmacists were concerned, Australia led the way. In England, pharmacists were hoping for better recognition from the War Office, and no effort was being spared to induce the authorities to give them the status their work entitled them to. Personally, he had endeavoured to do his best. His trip had been a strenuous one, and he had had little time for relaxation. Major Cossar concluded by expressing his indebtedness to his brother pharmacists in England and America for their great kindness and courtesy during his absence from Australia.

QUEENSLAND.

Mr. W. I. R. Trouton, Brisbane, has also been visiting South.

Mr. J. Saunders, of Roma, is still under medical attention in Brisbane.

Mr. T. Gaydon, of Childers, was another country chemist interested in optometry.

Mr. J. C. Minnis, of Allen and Minnis, Ipswich, has been on a visit to the Central West.

Mr. R. De V. O'Reilly has lately got a position as Staff Sergt. in the military forces.

Staff-Sergt. S. P. Clarke, returned A.I.F., has returned to duty in the Base Depot of Medical Stores.

Mr. W. W. Holyoake, of Mackay, was in Brisbane during the month in connection with the Opticians' Examination.

Mr. C. Woods (Captain Woods), late Xtal Manufacturing Co., has been appointed manager for Bickford & Co., in Brisbane.

Mr. S. H. Stroud and family left Brisbane on July 13th by S.S. Bombala, to take up his appointment in the Sydney University.

Lieut. G. P. Doyle has returned to duty as O.C. Base Depot of Medical Stores, after a flying visit to the north on military duties.

Mr. T. J. Luddy, Edward-st., Brisbane, has returned from a holiday in Sydney. Mr. S. P. Clarke acted as his manager while he was away.

Staff-Sergt. Cornack, lately returned from England, has received his discharge. He will join the staff of Messrs. McGuffie and Co., whose employ he left to enlist.

Captain R. C. Cowley, O.C. Base Depot, has paid a flying visit to Stanthorpe and Toowoomba. While in these towns he had the opportunity of calling on the chemists.

Mr. H. Saunders, of Roma, paid a visit to Brisbane to meet his son, who was returning from the front. Mr. Saunders had the misfortune to lose a son in the war some time back.

Mrs. Chater, wife of Mr. A. B. Chater, was the victim of a nasty tram-car accident, due to a collision with a dray. She was much shaken, but is now convalescent, and is now with her husband on holiday at Southport.

Mr. Archie McLean (late A.I.F.) has secured the Watkins Memorial prize given by the Pharmaceutical Society to the student who gains the highest percentage of marks in the mid-term College examination. We are pleased to note the success of a returned soldier.

TASMANIA.

Mr. J. Shineberg, a recent arrival from Western Australia, has joined the staff of Messrs. A. Miller and Son, Hobart.

Trade Notes.

Trade Mark Applications.

Class 2.—Chemical Substances, Disinfectants, etc.

Antiseptic Healing Oil.—A. G. Readford, "Segenhoe," Scone, New South Wales, stud manager.

Charles Bridge (design)—Charles Bridge, Crockhill Farm, Ashopton, Derby, England, farmer.

Walbow—Wales & Bower, 8 Lindon Court, 107 Castlereagh-st., Sydney, agents.

Class 3.—Chemicals Used in Medicine and Pharmacy.

Plantex—Fanny Sharp, trading as Plantex Pills, 109 Elizabeth-st., Sydney, manufacturers.

Cados—Andrew John Fowns Miller, Hobart, Tasmania, Chemists.

Squaw Beans—Alfred Edward Cooper, 106 King-st., Sydney, herbalist.

Nux-i-tone—Frederick Stearns & Co., 358 Harris-st., Pyrmont, Sydney, chemical manufacturers.

Valentine's Meat Juice—601 to 605 East Cary-st., Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A., manufacturers.

Frostol.—The Edward Wesley Co., Cincinatti, Ohio, U.S.A., manufacturers.

Design (rectangle divided by a diagonal line into two equal triangles, one of the said triangles being white and the other dark).—Frederick Stearns & Co., Pyrmont, Sydney, manufacturing chemists.

Class 48.—Perfumery, Soaps, Toilet Articles, etc.

Cados.—Andrew John Fowns Miller, Hobart, bart Tasmania, Chemist.

La Mayvelle—Edward Isaac Setchell, trading as Mrs. Mary K. Chapman, 117 Pitt-st., Sydney.

Phoenix—F. H. Faulding & Co., King William-st., Adelaide, manufacturing chemists.

Ozomint—Cuxson, Gerrard & Co., Ltd., Oldbury, Worcestershire, manufacturers.

Vive—Lever Bros. Ltd., Balmain, N.S.W., manufacturers.

Verdena—Edward Isaac Setchell, trading as Mrs. Mary Chapman, 117 Pitt-st., Sydney, Accountant.

OUR ADVERTISERS' SECTION.

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society asks Members when ordering goods to give preference (other things being equal) to firms advertising in the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*. This service is mutual—advertisers are benefited thereby and the Members improve the value of their own journal as an advertising medium.

Dispensing Scales.—Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co. are now manufacturing dispensing scales of a high grade character. The difficulty in procuring these scales from England and America, and the abnormal prices being quoted, have induced the firm to take up the manufacture of them. They have adopted the style known as "The American Box Pattern." The working parts are mounted inside the box in such a way as to render it almost impossible to dislocate the balancing arrangements. The wood-work for the most part is constructed of richly-polished Queensland maple, thoroughly seasoned and carefully selected. A convenient drawer for weights is fitted. The marble table which covers the box portion is taken from the Buchan mines. It is dressed and polished in Australia, and the exquisite grain and variegated colours give an attractive appearance, that should be in keeping with the interior of any pharmacy. All metal parts are heavily plated. A hinged glass cover protects the pans and indicators when not in use. These balances are designed to carry a load up to two ounces, and are sensitive to ¼-grain. Several improvements to the old style will tend to give quicker weighings. With reasonable care, these scales retain their sensitivity for many years. It is stated they are the first of their kind to be produced in this country, and the material used throughout is entirely of Australian origin. Price, with weights, £5 10s.

Mellin's Food Ltd., the well-known British manufacturers, have purchased land in Collingwood, Melbourne, upon which they intend to immediately erect an up-to-date factory for the production of their well-known food lines to supply the Australasian market. The enterprise is being conducted by the managing director for Australia, Mr. E. J. Watkins. Doubtless the lead given by Mellin's Food will be followed by many other British manufacturers in order to solve the problem arising out of the shortage of shipping, and retain their valuable Australian connection.

Messrs. H. and T. Kirby and Co. Ltd., Belton-road, Willesden Green, London, N.W., are offering English Aspirin tablets in thirty varieties. These are guaranteed 5 grains. Chemically they comply with all the B.P. tests. They are uniform in weight and size, and are packed in cartons, with name and address if required. Particulars as to prices, quantities and terms for export orders will be found on

page 5 of the advertising section. The name of "Kirby" is a synonym for quality, and the house has an established reputation extending back for many years.

Forbes' Phosferine, of which Messrs. Martin and Pleasance, Collins-street, Melbourne, are the proprietors, is a line which Victorian pharmacists can handle with confidence. It has been on the market for a number of years, and has the merit of being an Australian proprietary. Advertising in the public press has been extended of late, and this has led to an increased demand.

Listerine is the well-known trade mark of the Lambert Pharmacal Co., St. Louis, U.S.A. This firm has enjoyed a good reputation for fair dealing It offers a wide range of pharmaceutical specialties, particulars of which will be found on reference to page 14 of the advertisements in this number. Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co., Melbourne, the Australian agents, will be pleased to quote terms and discounts on application. The Lambert Pharmacal Co. has been a consistent supporter of the journal for many years past, and pharmacists are asked to reciprocate by placing an order for "Listerine" goods when making up their list of purchases.

Nazetha is one of the later Australian-produced specialties, which has rapidly come into public favour. Messrs. A. P. Miller and Son, chemists, Hobart, are the proprietors, and they have had such confidence in their product that they have not hesitated to advertise it largely. Public advertising helps sales. Pharmacists participate in this. "Nazetha" should prove a good seller now that the cold season is upon us.

Messrs. Howards and Sons Ltd., Ilford, near London, draw special attention in this issue to their Aspirin Tablets, the sales of which increased nearly 5000 per cent. the second year they were on the market. Two recent single orders from Australasian houses amounted to 1946 dozen of twenty-fives. Howards' chemicals have always occupied a leading position for purity and accuracy of manufacture, and their Aspirin Tablets are no exception to this rule. There is a well-founded belief in English legal circles that the word "Aspirin" will never again become a German monopoly. It is for this reason that English houses are striving to identify themselves with the word, and thus prevent the Germans from recapturing the market in this line.

An Honest Druggist.

He said, "So, druggist, you are out?
Have you no other stuff about
That's just as good—to guarantee—
So that you'll lose no trade with me?"

The druggist slowly shook his head;
"None other is so good," he said.
The customer cried out in glee,
"O, honest man, I'll trade with thee!"
—"Pacific Drug Review."

Market Reports.

Messrs. Elliott Bros. Ltd., Sydney, in their July market report state that June was a remarkably good month for business, the demand for all classes of drugs and chemicals being better than was usual for this time of the year. Local manufactures are reported as being in brisk demand, the only trouble being to get material for home-made articles.

The following alterations in prices should be noted:—

Drug Plants are scarce. There is little prospect of local growers being able to cultivate these lines to a profit, at least for some time to come. Fol. Matico is 4s. per lb., Fol. Coca is 4s., Rad. Valerian 7s. 6d., pulv. 8s. 6d. per lb.; Gum Benz., 4s. per lb., pulv. 4s. 6d.; Balsam Tolu, 9s. per lb.; Gum Assafoetida, 6s. 6d. per lb.; Gum Guiaici, 7s. per lb.; Rad Cimicifuga, 3s. per lb.; Gum Catechu Nig., 1s. 6d. per lb.

Opium is advancing. The prices now stand: Gum, 9s. 6d. per oz.; Extract, 18s. per oz.

Morphia Salts have risen with the Gum Opium. Alkaloid, 42s. per oz.; Acetate Hydrochlorate and Sulphate, 40s. per oz.; Bimeconate and Tartrate, 45s. per oz.

Nepenthe (Ferris) has advanced to 22s. per lb.

Quinine and its salts have slightly advanced.

Essential Oils are further advancing. Ol. Lavand Mont Blanc is 2s. 9d. per oz., or 40s. per lb.; Ol. Caryoph. 2s. per oz., 28s. per lb. Ol. Sabina, 1s. 3d. per oz., 17s. per lb.

Chemicals are dearer. Iodine, 1s. 9d. per oz., 24s. per lb.; Pot. Acet., 8s. per lb.; Ammon. Sulphocyanide, 10s. per lb.; Pot. Sulphocyanide, 16s. per lb.; Paraldehyd, 19s. per lb.; Caffeine, pure 5s. 6d. per oz., 84s. per lb., cit. 4s. per oz., 56s. per lb.; Acid Tannic, 14s. 6d. per lb.; Salicine, 4s. per oz., 56s. per lb.; Lithia Cit., 10d. per oz., 10s. per lb.; Naphthalene Flake, 1s. 6d. per lb.

Dispensing Bottles are on the rise. We may expect an increase in all kinds of glassware.

Vaseline has advanced. Yellow: 1 lb., 1s. 10d., 20s. per doz.; 5 lbs., 6s. 3d. per tin, 56 lb. tins, 1s. 1d. per lb. White: 2s. 10d. per lb., 33s. per doz.; 5 lbs., 2s. 1d. per lb.; 15 lbs., 2s. per lb.; 50 lb. tins, 1s. 11d. per lb.

Rose Water Conc.—E.B.'s, 15s. per lb.; Robinson's, 18s. per lb. Shellac is 4s. per lb. Pumice stone (lump or powder), 9d. per lb. Cotton seed oil, 21s. per gallon.

Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co., Melbourne, in their July Prices Current, report the following alterations in prices:—

Arsenic, drums, 60s. 6d. cwt.; less than 56 lbs., 9d. lb.
Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, No. 1, 14s. 6d. doz.; No. 2, 28s. 6d. doz.; No. 3, 48s. doz.
Ayer's Hair Vigor, 48s. doz
Ayer's Pills, 12s. doz.
Ayer's Sarsae., 48s. doz.
Caryophyllum, 3s. lb.; pulv., 3s. 2d. lb.
Condy's Fluid, 23s. 6d. doz.
Finger Stalls, leather, 4s. doz.
Goutine, 5s. each.
Lin. Belladon., Meth., 15s. lb.; Wrs., 14s. 6d. lb.
Oleac Ointment, No. 1, 26s. doz.; No. 2, 45s. doz.
Oleac Soap, 7s. 6d. doz.
Paper Bags, all sizes, 1s. lb.
Piper Alb., whole, 1s. 9d. lb.; pulv., 2s. lb.
Sykes' Animal Ointment, 14s. 6d. doz.
Sykes' Drench, 13s. 6d. doz.
Tilley's Brown Windsor Soap, squares, 1s. 9d. doz.
Turkish Bath Soap, "Trident," 3s. 6d. doz.

White-Glass Bottles.—Owing to the difficulty the Glass Works experience just now through the shortage of Soda Ash, we are not taking orders for the manufacture of white-glass bottles.

Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt & Co., Melbourne, in their quarterly list, dated July 1, 1918, report:—"Very few ships have arrived with goods during the quarter, and the torpedoing of one large vessel bound for Australian ports has seriously inconvenienced importers. The boat was beached and her cargo (as far as possible) transferred to another steamer. Drugs had, in the meantime, to be purchased as replacements at considerably higher prices than those originally paid, indicating a scarcity and higher values as the disastrous war proceeds. We are led to believe that a big convoy is on the way, and the temporary shortage of many commodities may thus

be relieved. The old time irregular traffic of "wind jammers" from America has been renewed, and though a poor substitute for the regular steamer service, is proving useful in the circumstances evidently. The control of the world's immense and difficult ship-building and sea trade is in capable hands, and the problem appears to be near solution.

"When we add to the hardships of transportation the scarcity of raw material and labour and consequent decreased production, the prohibition of certain exportations, higher freights, and the demands for war materials, we must reflect that it is creditable for Australian merchants to be steadily and solvently carrying on business as usual. A cable from a big chemical manufacturing firm reads:—'At present the question of tonnage is the chief obstacle in the way of getting forward supplies, and if steamers were available we could ship some very substantial quantities.' Local laws have regulated the prices of **Linseed Oil, Arsenic, Shellac,** and other commodities. There is still a too scanty supply of **Methylated Spirit,** and an effort is being made to fix the distributing rates satisfactorily for both dealer and consumer.

"Of vast importance is the scarcity of **Opium** and all derivatives. This drug is quoted at 25dol. or more in the latest American catalogues to hand. And we haven't enough **Cocaine** in the warehouse to painlessly remove a wart! Some is, however, on the way. **Calcium Lactate, Potassium Citrate, Creosote, Ammoniated Mercury, Olive Oil, Strychnine, Imported Ether & Alcohol, Chloroform, Paper, Brushware,** and many other products are difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. **Camphor** has increased in value, and the same may be said of **Bromides, Glassware, Oil of Cloves, Cascara Bark, Buchu Leaves, and Barbadoes Aloes.** The quotations for the following have also advanced considerably:—**Acid Boracic, Citric and Tartaric Acids, Cream of Tartar, Barbitone, Bismuth Carb., Borax, Iron and Amm. Cit., Hexamina, Magnes. Carb., Nut** and **Cottonseed Oils, Quinine** (early shipments expected), **Liquorice Sticks, Vaseline,** and all **Pressed Herbs.** Reduced quotations obtain for **Acid Acetyl. Sal. Phenacetin,** and **Salol.**

"As may be expected, there are adverse changes in the rates for many proprietary lines, including **Balfe's Hat Dyes, Bates' Salve, Bonnington's Goods, Bromo Seltzer, Diamond Dyes, Eno's Fruit Salt, Eudenta, Gainsborough Dyes, Hean's Essence, James's Blister, Lactogol, L.B.Q. Tabs., Murdock's Food, Paternoster Pills, Pitt's Wheat, Pond's Extract, R. & G.'s Perfumes, Seccotine, Vinolia Goods,** and **P. D. & Co.'s Products.**

"The sundries chiefly affected by elevation of value are:—**Filter Papers, C. C. Pots, Chip Boxes, E. S. Hose, Enemas, Lint** (a remarkable alteration.) **Sanitary Towels, Tin Boxes, and Twine.** There is also a notable dearth of well-known **Complexion Powders.**"

Births, Marriages & Deaths.

BIRTHS.

Champion.—On June 29, at "St. Ives," corner Inkerman-road and Normanby-avenue, St. Kilda, the wife of John Champion, a daughter.

NOTICE.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia.

LECTURE ON MEDICINAL PLANTS.

AN ILLUSTRATED LANTERN LECTURE on the "Wellcome Materia Medica Farm of Medicinal Plants," by Mr. Herbert G. Varker, Ph.C., will be held at the College of Pharmacy, on WEDNESDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1918, at 8.30 p.m.

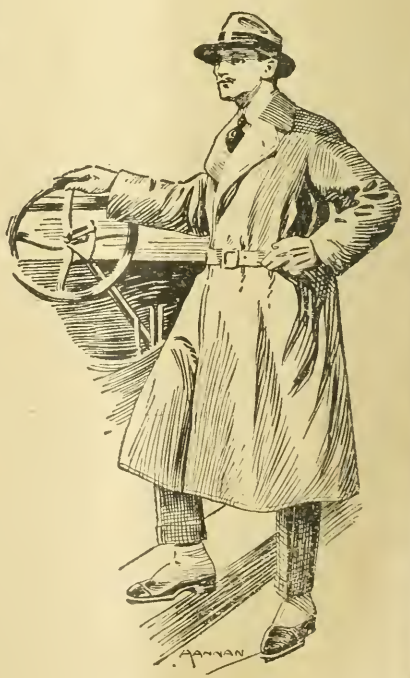
Pharmacists and their assistants are invited to be present.

C. L. BUTCHERS, Secretary.

The "Keep-Dri" Coat

97/6 (Freight Paid).

Thoroughly Tailored in High-Grade Gabardine of particularly Stout Quality—with Check Cloth Lining—Full Collar—Wind-Guards to Sleeves—the "Keep-Dri," though not weighty, is undeniably a warm coat and one that will give you all the Protection You Want This Weather. The Style is modelled on the lines of the French Coat now favored by officers of the Allied Forces and is "Different" to just the degree desired by the average well-dressed man, and features a Waist-Belt with Military Pull-through Buckle, which keeps the Fronts in position without the aid of Buttons. The value at our Price, 97/6—considering Quality of Material and Class of Making—is undeniably out of the ordinary.

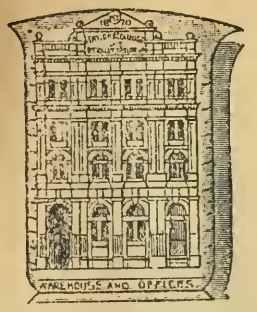


CALL OR WRITE—

Lincoln, Stuart & Co. Pty. Ltd.

"Men's Wear Specialists,"

244-254 FLINDERS STREET, MELBOURNE



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Wholesale Druggists and Importers,

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Importers of Drugs, Chemicals and Druggists' Sundries, Patent Medicines and Perfumery, Surgical Instruments and Sundries. Confectioners' and Dyers' Goods. Dental Sundries, Sodawater Machinery, Bottling Racks, Egg shape and Lamont's Sodawater Bottles, and all Cordial Makers' Requirements.
All parts of Queensland visited at regular intervals by experienced travellers. Agencies solicited from firms who are prepared to actively introduce their manufactures into the colony.

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CODEINE	CAFFEINE	SALICIN
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Everything for Sick Nursing and the Invalid.

SPECIALITIES ARE

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TRAINED NURSE ALWAYS IN ATTENDANCE. CATALOGUE ON REQUEST.

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Insures Pharmacists for a nominal sum against losses arising in respect of claims for alleged errors.

Entrance Fee	£1	0	0
Annual Subscription ...	0	10	0
Indemnity Policy for £400	1	0	0
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By paying 1 - for each employee the policy is extended to cover claims due to an employee's negligence.

The P.D L. has a Reserve Fund in Victoria of £650.

Branches in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia.

For further particulars apply to

C. L. BUTCHERS,
General Secretary.

360 Swanston Street, Melbourne.

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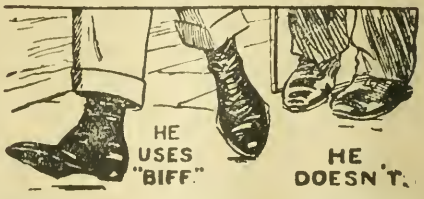
The Popular Remedy For All Foot Ailments.



TIRED, SORE, SWOLLEN, PERSPIRING FEET, CORNS, BUNIONS.

AN EFFECTIVE REMEDY FOR CHILBLAINS.

RETAIL PRICES—1s. 6d. and 4s.

Stocked by Wholesale Druggists Australia & New Zealand

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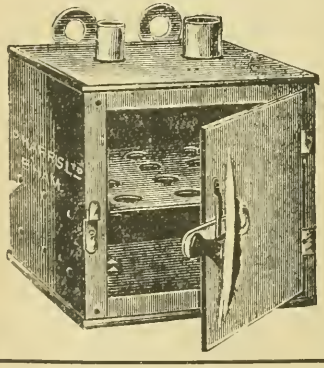

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Everything Required in the Laboratory.

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"EMPIRE" BRAND.

BRITISH LANOLINE—HYDROUS & ANHYDROUS

NOTHING FINER ON THE MARKET.

SAMPLES, QUOTATIONS AND ORDERS THROUGH YOUR AGENTS.

THE BRITISH LANOLINE CO.

20 ASFORDBY STREET, LEICESTER.

Proprietors:
(HOWARD LLOYD & CO. LTD.)
MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS.

When Doctors and the Public began to complain of the difficulty of getting a satisfactory Aspirin in consequence of the disappearance of the German article from the market, Howards & Sons Ltd. undertook a research into the subject, which ended in the production of

HOWARDS'

ASPIRIN

TABLETS

It is no exaggeration to say that these have created a sensation among Medical and Pharmaceutical circles in England. One leading doctor pronounced that the difference between Howards and other brands he had previously used was

"SIMPLY MARVELLOUS."

To give an idea of their popularity, it may be mentioned that the sales increased nearly

5000%

during the second year of their "life" as compared with the first. TWO SINGLE ORDERS were received recently from Australasian houses, amounting to

1946 doz. 25's.

THEY ARE THE MOST WONDERFUL SELLING LINE INTRODUCED SINCE THE WAR.

HOWARDS & SONS LTD. (Est. 1797) ILFORD, NR. LONDON

STATHAM'S POROUS Elastic Bandage

TRADE MARK.

Statham's Porous Rubber Elastic Bandages

For the Cure of **ULCERS** and other **Diseases of the Leg.**

Specify "STATHAM'S." None genuine without Reg. TRADE MARK stamped on every bandage

Our Bandages are known throughout the world as the coolest and most durable extant. Rendered porous by a new process, which is a great improvement on the old-fashioned method of ventilating by punching round holes in the bandage, which greatly weakens it. The **POROUS** Bandages contain *thousands* of fine pores through which perspiration may escape, and this without the removal of any rubber, as they do not become visible until the bandage is stretched.

Made of the finest **Para Rubber** only.

5 ft. x 2½in. wide 10½ft. x 2½in. wide 21ft. x 2½in. wide 7½ft. x 3in. wide 15ft. x 3 in. wide
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To be obtained of all Wholesale Chemists, Druggists' Sundriesmen, etc., or of the Sole Makers.

H. STATHAM & CO., 11 Corporation Street, Manchester.

A MEDICINE OF WORLD-WIDE POPULARITY

FOR NEARLY
THREE QUARTERS OF A CENTURY

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS

AND OINTMENT

HAVE EARNED FOR THEMSELVES
UNIVERSAL APPROBATION
BY MAINTAINING
The HEALTH of THOUSANDS
IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Advertising Matter, such as Showcards, Billheads, Almanacs, Calendars, Fancy Cards, Counter Bills etc., will be forwarded free of all cost to applicants, on receipt of a post card addressed to

THOMAS HOLLOWAY,
115 SOUTHWARK STREET, LONDON, S.E.

ARE YOU WEAK IN BODY OR DEPRESSED IN SPIRITS?

Atkin's Quinine Tonic Wine

IS A GENUINE & RELIABLE TONIC

Agreeable to take, and far superior to all ordinary Quinine Wines.

Invaluable in Cases of Influenza, Neuralgia, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Loss of Appetite, Nervous Depression, Slow Convalescence after Serious Illness or Confinement, &c.

Awarded Gold, Bronze and Silver Medals at Various Exhibitions. Est. 1853.

Small Bottle, 2/-. Large Bottle, 3/6

All Druggists, Chemists, Licensed Grocers and Hotels.

"National" Rubber Adhesive Plaster

ON STRONG COTTON CLOTH. NON-IRRITANT.
VERY TENACIOUS.

Spools, each 10 yards	½ inch 14/-	1 inch 20 -	2 inch 32/-	2½ inch 38/-	3 inches wide. 44/- per dozen.

Tins, each 4 yards, 1 inch wide, per dozen ... 8 - } Usual Discount.
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Manufactured by A. DE ST. DALMAS & CO., Leicester, England.
Makers of all kinds of Medical Plasters.

Dand's Mustard Jelly

A useful combination of
MUSTARD, CAPSICUM, WINTERGREEN,
CAMPHOR, MENTHOL AND OILS
incorporated in an agreeable base.
Issued in Collapsible Tubes. 6 Tubes on card.

A SERVICEABLE WINTER SPECIALTY.

PRICE 8s. PER DOZEN.

If you have Heartburn, Headache, Gout, Biliousness, or Acidity of the Stomach **TRY**

HENRY'S CALCINED MAGNESIA

It is free from taste, smell, or roughness to the palate.

This Remedy was first prepared by Dr. Thomas Henry, of Manchester, in the year 1772, and has been before the public for one hundred and forty years—surely a wonderful record and proof of its remarkable medicinal value.

One dose will relieve Heartburn, and a few doses will correct Acidity, Gout, Headache, and Biliousness.

It is the mildest and safest aperient for the most delicate constitutions, and can be given to children in early infancy.

Sole Makers—**THOMAS & WILLIAM HENRY**
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Price **2/9** and **4/6** per Bottle.
Can be obtained from all the leading chemists in the United Kingdom and abroad.

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Barley, Wheat, and Milk in Powder Form

IN WASTING DISEASES.

Hundreds of physicians appreciate its high quality. It is distinctive and inimitable. It means stringent milk regulations, malt in which the enzymes have been properly developed, a clean, sun-flooded plant with sanitary surroundings, and many years of experience. A food that may be of vital importance to some infant under your care that is not gaining in weight. Supplies the essential nutriment for stimulating life forces in the treatment of Febrile Diseases, Malarial Cachexia, Incipient Tuberculosis, and all cases of Systemic Weakness.

Prepared in a moment with water. No Cooking.

SAMPLES BY POST FREE TO THE PROFESSION, ON REQUEST

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REQUIRES NO SHAKING DOWN.

A 30 SEC. CLINICAL THERMO-METER RESET IN AN INSTANT!

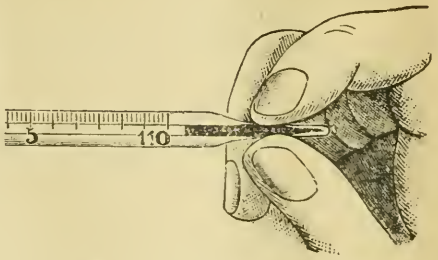
The Greatest Time-Saving and Tube-Saving Invention in Clinical Thermometers is

"The REPELLO"

Literally - "I PUSH BACK."

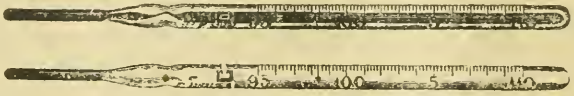
Patented in the United Kingdom, America, and on the Continent.

ADOPTED BY EMINENT PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.



All our Thermometers are made from "Normal Glass," which prevents the bulb contracting, making them perfectly accurate for all time.

Glass Throughout. Hermetically Sealed Nothing to go wrong. Will Not Roll. Made in All Kinds. Tested and Passed at Kew.



Sole Agents for Australia: Denyer Brothers, Melbourne and Sydney.

Inventor and Patentee: G. H. ZEAL, 82 Turnmill Street, LONDON, E.C., ENGLAND

See my New Regd. Magnifying Lens Index Guide—EASY TO READ.

"WELCOMED BY PHYSICIANS."

Milne's Antiseptic Ligatures.

In Straight Lengths.

Surgeons should see John Milne's Name on every package of these most reliable and convenient patented Ligatures, so as to avoid purchasing cheap and inferior imitations.

Each flask can be supplied in a wooden case at a small additional cost.

Milne's Close Texture Gauzes.

We have just introduced a specially woven Gauze which is used as a basis for the above. It is uniformly absorbent, very soft, closely and evenly woven, and most economical in use, and goes twice or thrice as far as the gauze usually supplied. We medicate it with any antiseptic, and pack in one, three and six yard air-tight boxes and jars, if desired "Moist" it can be so supplied.

DENYER BROTHERS,

Surgical Instrument and Truss Makers,

IMPORTERS OF ANTISEPTIC DRESSINGS AND HOSPITAL SUPPLIES.

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BUY IT IN GROSS LOTS AND SAVE AN EXTRA NINE PER CENT.

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FOR THE
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SHOW CASES
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BIDWELLS' TOILET BRUSHES

BILVERDRAWN.
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GOLD MEDAL.

Axminster, Devon, England.
ESTABLISHED 1839.

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Chemists Labels
A SPECIALITY

OUR WISH IS THAT WE MAY DO YOUR **LABEL WORK**

HAND BILLS, MEMO. FORMS, BILL HEADS, and every description of

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OUR CHARGES ARE ALWAYS FAIR and REASONABLE, **Never Excessive**

WE STAND FOR **QUALITY**—FIRST, LAST, AND ALWAYS.

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Under Vice-Regal Patronage.

JOHN ROSIER,

Foot Specialist, Chiropodist & Surgical Bootmaker

LADIES' & GENTLEMEN'S BOOTS & SHOES

Made only by Hand and to Measure. Perfect feet preserved in their pristine beauty.

Deformed Feet Orthœpedically Treated and lameness greatly diminished, and Instruments when required.

Corns, Bunions, and Ingrowing Toe-Nails Skilfully Removed without risk or pain. Ladies and Gentlemen attended to at their private residence by appointment. *Special arrangements for families.*

Instructions from the Medical Faculty Carefully carried out, and immediate consultation when required.

For proof, see undoubted Testimonials.

SURGICAL BOOTMAKER TO THE MELBOURNE HOSPITAL.

For Chilblains Use Rosier's "Pedentia."

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WORTH A GUINEA A BOX.

BEECHAM'S PILLS

The Most Marvellous Medicine of the Age

FOR ALL

Bilious and Nervous Disorders

SUCH AS

Sick Headache, Constipation, Weak Stomach,
Impaired Digestion,
Disordered Liver and Female Ailments.

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MEDICAL ACT 1915, PART III.

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

AS required by Section 95, Sub-section of the "Medical Act 1915," Part III., is held at the COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, Swanston Street, Melbourne, in MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER.

Next Examination: MONDAY and TUESDAY, 2nd and 3rd SEPT., 1918.

The following are the compulsory subjects:—

LATIN.—Grammar, accidence and syntax. Translation of simple sentences into Latin. Translation into English from Cæsar, De Bello, Gallico, Book I., Chapter 1-29, inclusive, or Vergil Aeneid, Book I., Lines 1-401, inclusive.

ENGLISH.—Grammar and Composition. English Literature as prescribed by the Melbourne University.

For the September, 1918, to June, 1919 Examinations:—

1. A knowledge of one of Shakespeare's plays and one of Scott's novels.
2. The interpretation of the meaning, thought and style of passages of prose and verse, with special reference to the ode and the sonnet. The four books of the Golden Treasury contain many of the great odes, and the second and fourth books the sonnets best suited for candidates proceeding to the Intermediate Examination. It also demands some knowledge of Australian verse.

ARITHMETIC.—First four rules, simple and compound; vulgar and decimal fractions; simple and compound proportion; profit and loss; simple and compound interest; true and commercial discount and present worth; extraction of square root; British and metrical system of weights and measures; problems relating to lineal, square and cubic measurements, averages.

ALGEBRA.—Notation, symbolic, expressions, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Highest common factor and lowest common multiple. Fractions, cylic order. Extraction of square root. Proof of algebraical identities. Simple equations of one and two variables. Quadratic equations of one variable. Equational problems.

GEOMETRY.—The substance of Euclid Books I. and II. Any recognised Text Book may be used.

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The questions given at the examinations are published in the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* for March, June, September, and December in each year. 1s. a copy.

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THE EXAMINATION of Students who have attended the Lectures in the above subjects is held half-yearly. The next examination will be held at the COLLEGE OF PHARMACY on 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Dec., 1918.

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THE FINAL EXAMINATION.

The next FINAL EXAMINATION IN PRACTICAL PHARMACY before the Board will be held at the College of Pharmacy from the 9th to the 12th SEPT., 1918.

Candidates must give 14 days' written notice of their intention to present themselves. Indentures of Apprenticeship and the Certificates required by Sections 96 and 98 of "The Medical Act, 1915," Part III., must be lodged with the Registrar, and the Fee of Three Guineas paid ten days prior to the day of examination.

Pharmacy Board of New South Wales.

THE NEXT PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION will be held 3rd THURSDAY and FRIDAY in DECEMBER, 1918.

Authors for 1918 are—Scott's "Lady of the Lake," Canto 4, and Cæsar, de Bello Gallico, Book 5.

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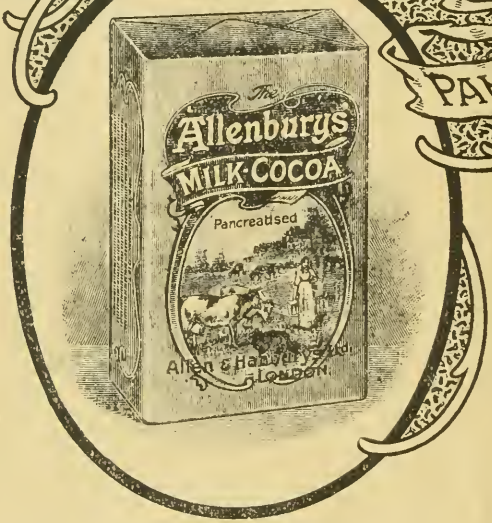

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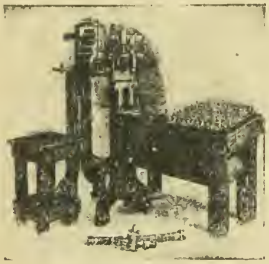

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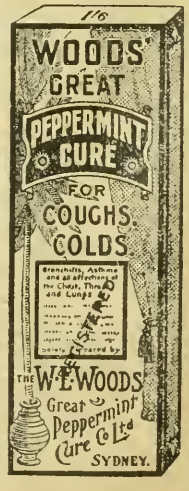

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